Respected community member Ivan Propst, 82. PAGE 2
CHCC could soon be able to ID COVID variants. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

$1

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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COVID UPDATE

43 new cases; 7 hospitalized

Forty-three additional individuals have been confirmed positive for COVID-19, bringing the CNMI's total to 10,777 cases since March 28, 2020.

Of the 43 cases identified on March 21, 2022, seven were reported on Tinian. The vaccination statuses of the 43 cases are pending verification.

Also, as of March 22, 2022, there were seven individuals hospitalized as a result of COVID-19.

Of the 10,777 total cases that have been identified in the CNMI, there have been 10,598 recoveries; 148 active cases; and 31 COVID-19-related deaths. Of these numbers, 9,998 were identified via community testing and 779 via travel testing.

A total of 44 COVID-19 vaccine shots were administered on March 22, 2022; of the eligible population, 59.3% have already received

See 43 on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6:34pm, March 23, 2022

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Additional Dose Vaccinated: **59.3%**

Days since last community transmission: **2**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	38.140
Fully Vaccinated:	37,352
Moderna	
Initiated:	5,346
Fully Vaccinated:	5,207
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	1,149
Additional Dose:	22,123

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	46,893	49	46,942
Recovered	45,298	5	45,303
Active	1,250	49	1,299
Deaths	340	0	340

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	10,734	43	10,777
Recovered	10,539	59	10,598
Active	105	43	148
Deaths	31	0	31

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

'COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

'$850K that will be taken from MVA will be returned

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House of Representatives vice speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) said Tuesday that the $850,000 they proposed to remove from the Marianas Visitors Authority for the $1,000 bonuses for government retirees will be backfilled or returned to MVA through the American Rescue Plan Act funding.

Speaking at a news briefing in the House chamber last Tuesday, Attao said the MVA should instead be fighting

See MVA on Page 4

FBI'S 2021 INTERNET CRIME REPORT

FBI: 29 victims of Web crimes in NMI in 2021

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Fraud losses: $705,244
» Report sees 7% increase nationwide in 2020, with over $6.9 billion in potential losses

Nationally, the CNMI ranks 56th among states and territories that reported incidents of cyber and internet crimes in 2021, with records showing 29 victims and a total of $705,244 in fraud losses.

In comparison, Guam ranks 55th nationwide with 64 victims and $2,168,956 in fraud losses. American Samoa ranks 57th with 25 victims and $177,533 in fraud losses.

By number of victims and loss, California tops all states with 67,095 victims and $1.22 billion in losses.

These numbers form part of

See FBI on Page 4

PSS YOUTH CONFERENCE LEIGH GASES
Public School System students attend the Annual Youth Conference yesterday at the Kensington Hotel Saipan's Kensington Hall. This year's conference theme was "Road to Resilience."

Story on Page 7

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Patrick Bulaon is being promoted to Matson vice president and GM, Guam/Micronesia.

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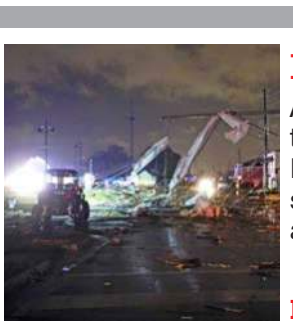

NATION
A tornado tore through parts of New Orleans and its suburbs, killing at least one person.

Page 12

ASIA
The search for clues in a Chinese jetliner's crash in China is suspended because of rain.

Page 13

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Ivan Propst, 82

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ivan Kenneth Propst, who was a respected member of the CNMI society and had an extensive background of working in different capacities throughout his life, passed away on Tuesday, March 22. He was 82 years old. He leaves behind his spouse, three children, 10 grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Propst

In a Facebook post by his son, Rep. Edwin Propst, the lawmaker disclosed that his father had suffered a stroke last March 13.

Rep. Ed Propst announced his father's passing on his Facebook page, saying "Dear friends, our papa bear Ivan Propst is with God now. The patriarch of the Propst clan has been called home. We thank the Lord for his nearly 83 years on earth. He was a giver, as generous and as genuine as they come. Thank you very much Dad! We love you always!"

Ivan Propst was also honored on the Northern Marianas College Facebook page, which shared photos of him. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of Ivan Propst. Ivan held various leadership roles at Northern Marianas College for many years and contributed significantly to the institution's growth, advancement, and development. He also recently met with NMC's president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero and offered key insight to our new president. Ivan will always be remembered and loved at NMC."

Ivan Propst was with the CNMI Department of Education from 1975 to 1983 and was an 8th grade English teacher at the Hopwood Jr. High School from 1983 to 1986. At NMC, he held various positions, from the years 1986 through 1997 as an English Instructor, dean of Instruction, dean of Arts and Sciences, accreditation liaison officer, and assistant to academic vice president.

Alleged 'ice' possession lands man in jail

The CNMI Department of Public Safety's Drug Enforcement Task Force arrested last March 17 a man who was allegedly found in possession of methamphetamines.

Malabanan

A Department of Public Safety news release yesterday identified the suspect as Denmar E. Malabanan, who was arrested on Saipan after he was allegedly found in possession of methamphetamines with the intent to distribute. Malabanan was transported to the Department of Corrections where he was booked and detained.

The next day, March 18, 2022, a Rule-5 was drafted for the charges of trafficking and possession. CNMI Superior Court associate judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio set Malabanan's bail at $100,000. ***(PR)***

This Covenant Day signifies 46 years of a very meaningful and beneficial political relationship with the United States of America. We honor those before us who chartered a course for the people of the Northern Mariana Islands. We must also honor those serving in the Armed Forces and veterans that served to protect the principles of freedom and democracy.
HAPPY
COVENANT
Day!
David M. Apatang
Mayor of Saipan and staff

CHCC could soon be able to ID COVID variants in the CNMI

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. says the CNMI could soon have the equipment needed to test COVID-19 specimens and identify what variant is on-island.

Since the start of the COVID-19 surge, the CNMI, as well as Guam, has had to send its COVID-19 specimens off island for testing to identify what COVID-19 strains are circulating within the CNMI.

Now, however, CHCC is getting closer to acquiring the equipment needed to be able to identify COVID-19 variants on-island, said CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña.

"We did request for a purchase of this equipment. Unfortunately, it's not here yet. But it is in the CNMI's strategy as a future investment in public health. We need to make sure that what we do is sustainable for any new variant and any new infection that comes our way," she said.

To date, Muña said, based on the samples that have been sent off island for testing, COVID-19 variants that continue to plague the CNMI are the delta and omicron variants.

During a press briefing last Friday, Muña said that the number of COVID-19 cases in the CNMI, as well hospitalizations, continue to decline and the CNMI is steadily progressing to level medium on the U.S Center of Disease Control and Prevention's COVID-19 community level metric system.

Last week, the CNMI saw the biggest indicator of a decline in COVID-19 hospitalizations when CHCC put the COVID-19 Alternative Care site in Kanoa in a "warm" state, essentially closing the site for the time being.

"For the last couple of weeks, we have not had any patients at the Alternative Care Site. So, as we're seeing zero hospitalizations over at the Alternative Care Site, we've put it into a warm state. Warm state means that all the equipment will be there and we will

See CHCC on Page 4

Wanted: Roland Salas

Salas

The CNMI Department of Public Safety continues to seek the public's help in locating an individual pursuant to an arrest warrant. Roland Salas is wanted by authorities for the charges of disturbing the peace, domestic violence, and assault and battery.

If you or anyone you know has any information in regards to Salas, we advise you not to approach Salas but to call 911 immediately. If you wish to remain anonymous call the CNMI Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. Crime Stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. ***(PR)***

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2018 HYUNDAI KONA — SALE PRICE $18,995 — STK: 21D129A — 24,415 MILES — KBB: $19,455

*NO PAYMENTS FOR 90 DAYS

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2017 HYUNDAI TUCSON GL — SALE PRICE $18,995 — 29,814 MILES — STK: 22H102A — KBB: $19,933
2016 HYUNDAI GENESIS COUPE — SALE PRICE $21,995 — 50,501 MILES — STK:16P374 — KBB: $23,203
2019 MAZDA MAZDA6 GT — SALE PRICE $28,995 — 27,000 MILES — STK: 22H021A — KBB: $29,936
2017 TOYOTA YARIS HATCHBACK — SALE PRICE $14,995 — 69,682 MILES — STK: 21M012A — KBB: $15,515
2020 HYUNDAI VENUE — SALE PRICE $19,995 — 8,383 MILES — STK: 21D082A — KBB: $21,071
2020 HYUNDAI ELANTRA SE — SALE PRICE $21,995 — 17,200 MILES — STK:21D078A — KBB: $23,225
2013 TOYOTA FJ CRUISER 4WD — SALE PRICE $33,995 — 85,000 MILES — STK: 13P359 — KBB: $35,786
2018 MITSUBISHI MIRAGE G4 — SALE PRICE $14,995 — 5,800 MILES — STK: 18HS1011 — KBB: $14,778
2016 MAZDA MAZDA6 — SALE PRICE $19,995 — 52,907 MILES — STK:16P380 — KBB: $20,065
2018 MAZDA MAZDA6 SPORT — SALE PRICE $22,995 — 13,544 MILES — STK:18HS1000 — KBB: $23,507
2018 TOYOTA TACOMA 2WD — SALE PRICE $33,995 — 15,260 MILES — STK: 18P344 — KBB: $34,836
2018 KIA FORTE LX — SALE PRICE $14,995 — 16,939 MILES — STK:18HS920 — KBB: $18,632
2018 HYUNDAI SANTA FE — SOLD — SALE PRICE $19,995 — 39,461 MILES — STK: 18R258 — KBB: $25,353
2017 TOYOTA RAV4 LE — SALE PRICE $22,995 — 34,800 MILES — STK:21D106A — KBB: $23,760
2019 TOYOTA TACOMA SR5 V6 — SALE PRICE $36,995 — 24,087 MILES — STK: 19P340 — KBB: $38,107
2015 TOYOTA CAMRY XLE — SALE PRICE $18,995 — 47,100 MILES — STK:15P325 — KBB: $20,295
2016 FORD EXPLORER XLT — SALE PRICE $19,995 — 38,752 MILES — STK: 16R266 — KBB: $22,827

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JGO continues to assert legislative immunity

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House Committee on Judiciary & Governmental Operations, or JGO committee, stands firm in its belief that it is protected under the CNMI' Constitution's speech or debate clause, which provides it immunity from the lawsuit filed by the Office of the Governor and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres against it, warranting the court to dismiss the lawsuit entirely.

According to committee lawyers Joseph Taijeron and Brendan Layde, the JGO contests Torres' previous request to deny the committee's motion to dismiss the governor's lawsuit.

Torres previously argued that because the lawsuit does not name any specific members of the committee, the immunity clause is inapplicable rendering the JGO's motion to dismiss the lawsuit, moot.

However, Taijeron and Layde argue that legislative immunity attaches to the JGO as a body, not just its constituent members.

"The case law on legislative immunity, under both the common law and the Speech and Debate Clauses of various U.S.-affiliated jurisdictions' constitutions, does not support the governor's assertion that it is limited to individual legislators. Nor would the policy interest of legislative immunity be well-served if it could be so easily circumvented," they stated.

The lawyers explained that the policy interest served by the legislative immunity clause would be defeated if plaintiffs could circumvent it simply by changing the case caption.

"As the governor would have it, the seven legislators of the JGO lose their legislative immunity when they are aggregated into the committee. But seven times one is seven, not zero. If plaintiffs 'Ralph Deleon Guerrero Torres in his official capacity as governor of the Commonwealth' and 'the Office of the Governor' had sought injunctions against members of the committee to enjoin them individually from enforcing the subpoena, the governor concedes legislative immunity would attach. Such immunity would be meaningless if it could be rendered a nullity simply by naming the JGO committee as a body instead," they said.

The lawyers cited Orta Rivera v. Congress of the United States of America arguing that the U.S Congress's own legislative immunity is not limited to individual members.

"Under the immunity granted by the Speech and Debate Clause of the Constitution, a federal court lacks power to command Congress or individual members of Congress to take legislative action," the cases states.

The lawyers also cited a local case to justify that legislative immunity applies to the committee as a whole, specifically *Millard v. Fifth Northern Mariana Commonwealth Legislature House of Representatives*.

"This issue has already been litigated here in the Commonwealth. The Fifth Commonwealth Legislature was a named defendant as a body in the Millard case. The plaintiff filed a lawsuit to quash a subpoena by a special committee of the Legislature, and the court granted the Legislature's motion to dismiss 'on the ground that the complaint fails to state a cause of action, but also as an affirmation that the Legislature has the power to issue subpoenas in aid of its legislative functions,'" the lawyers argued.

Taijeron and Layde also cited In *Sablan v. Tenorio*, stating that the Ninth CNMI Legislature was also a named defendant as a body, and the trial court granted its motion to dismiss on the basis of absolute legislative immunity.

Last month, Torres asked the court to deny the JGO committee's recent motion to dismiss his suit because their main argument allegedly does not apply to them as a whole to begin with.

Torres establishes Governor's Environmental Council

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres signed yesterday an executive order that creates the Governor's Environmental Council, which will be tasked for, among other responsibilities, the formulation of policy initiatives or community activities to encourage environmental protection, conservation, and sustainable development.

Under Executive Order 2022-05, the GEC's other responsibility is to give the governor recommendations on environmental issues relating to the administration of the Executive Branch and its departments and agencies.

The executive order states that the long-term interests of all CNMI residents "would be best served through providing members of the public a voice in the critical issues facing its environment and initiatives that will see the lasting protection of the Commonwealth's resources for future generations."

The GEC, which will be within the Executive Branch, shall be chaired by a representative of the CNMI community chosen by Torres and members shall be appointed at the governor's discretion.

Torres shall appoint members from various government and non-government sectors who hold backgrounds and expertise in environmental policy, conservation, and environmental activism.

Members will serve as environmental advisers to the governor at no expense to the CNMI government. Member shall be removed at the governor's discretion or by a vote of the GEC members.

The GEC will meet at least once every three months.

Other GEC responsibilities are the following:

The creation of detailed reports to advance environmental policy initiatives beneficial to the CNMI population.

Conducting a review of current environmental laws and policies to determine their efficacy in protecting the environment.

Proposing studies to be conducted related to the CNMI environment, to include surveys, valuation studies, cost benefit analyses, and willingness to pay estimations.

Veteran town hall meetings to take place on Rota and Tinian

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, through the CNMI Office of the Governor and the CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs, invites all veterans residing on Rota and Tinian to veteran town hall meetings to discuss issues of concern for veterans and military families.

The fourth town hall meeting is slated for Wednesday, March 30, 2022 at the Rota Mayor's Office conference room on Rota and will be from 6pm to 8pm.

The fifth town hall meeting is slated for Friday, April 1, 2022 at the Tinian Public Library in Tinian and will be from 6pm to 8pm.

The town hall meetings are designed to be an interactive forum for veterans and military families to voice their needs and concerns.

Please contact the CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs at (670) 664-2650 for more information. ***(PR)***

MVA

From Page 1

to get the $9 million Hotel Occupancy Tax funds owed MVA prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Attao and Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), along with some other representatives, held the news briefing to discuss their plans for the proposed retirees' bonuses, which has become a tug-of-war between the House and the Senate over how to come up with the manner with which the bonuses will be made available. The Senate wants to do it via a joint resolution; the House wants to do it via a House bill.

During the Senate's session on Tinian last March 10, Sen. Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota) said the House conferees had proposed to remove $850,000 from MVA's $1.3 million budget in fiscal year 2022, yet there was no discussion with the MVA managing director or its board of directors whether that would cripple MVA.

Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor Edwin P. Aldan urged the Senate to reject the House's intent to use HOT funds for the bonuses and identify an alternative funding source.

When asked about the senators' and the mayor's concerns, Attao said Tuesday that Finance Secretary David DLG. Atalig had mentioned that they would be backfilling the monies that were taken out from the local appropriation on the Budget Act under Public Law 22-08.

"So those monies are essentially not gone," said Attao, adding that, in fact, MVA is still owed HOT of almost $9 million prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

He said during the pandemic and today, there hasn't been any tourism functions outside of the travel bubble program.

The vice speaker said that, as Atalig had mentioned, they will replenish or backfill the monies that that were taken out of local accounts through ARPA funds.

He said he is happy that the Senate joint resolution for the retirees' bonuses removes Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' 100% reprogramming authority of the budget because that's very contentious on the House side.

On the $9-million HOT funds owed MVA, Attao said those are non-lapsing monies and that MVA should be fighting for it. He said those monies can be continuously used by MVA as they don't have fiscal year limitations to it.

The vice speaker said if there is a concern about $850,000 that will be taken to address the retirees' bonuses, MVA should be more concerned of the $9 million that they have not been paid.

Attao said the $9 million will go way farther for all the programs on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Rep. Leila Staffler (D-Saipan) said a compromise is also looking at those funding sources since that was one of the points of contention between the Senate and the House.

"If we were to be able to meet as a conference committee, that's one of the compromises we are absolutely willing to make," Staffler said.

She said that Atalig told them when he met with the House Ways and Means Committee a couple of weeks ago which funding sources would be best to choose from.

At the March 10 session on Tinian, the full Senate adopted Senate Joint Resolution 22-09 approving Torres' request to create a new program and business unit for the government retirees' bonuses.

Authored by Senate president Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and co-sponsored by five other Republican senators, the Senate joint resolution also approves Torres' request to reprogram $2.6 million from within the Executive Branch for the payment of the bonuses.

43

From Page 4

an additional dose. The vaccination rate is calculated using the 2020 Census population estimates for the CNMI and includes the eligible 5-years-old and older population.

A total of 231 COVID-19 tests were conducted on March 21, 2022: 214 via Community-Based Testing; 15 at the Koblerville COVID-19 Community Center; and two at the Rota Health Center. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

CHCC

From Page 3

ensure that preventive maintenance is done so when there's a need for it, or if there is a surge again, or for any reason whatsoever, we will be able to utilize it and return it to what we call hot state," she said.

The CHCC CEO said putting the ACS in a warm state was the best decision, as opposed to completely shutting it down, because it keeps the CNMI prepared for whatever COVID-19 variant may pop up next.

"There's a lot of information coming in. We just want to make sure that we do this right. So putting the ACS in a warm state is the best decision for us, rather than completely shutting it down," she said.

FBI

From Page 1

the 2021 Internet Crime Annual Report that the Federal Bureau of Investigation released yesterday, showing that the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center, or IC3, received 847,376 complaints from the American public last year. That is a 7% increase over the totals recorded in 2020, with potential losses exceeding $6.9 billion.

IC3, which was established in May 2000, provides the American public with a direct outlet to report cybercrimes to the FBI. It has received more than 6.5 million complaints since its inception.

According to the FBI's report, the IC3's Recovery Asset Team has proven to be a valuable source for field offices and victims.

RAT's contributions to investigation and recovery efforts posted to date a 74% success rate by freezing $328.32 million in funds out of $443.48 million in losses from 1,726 incidents.

By age group, most of the victims are those 60 years old and above, while the youngest victims are those under 20 years old.

As to crime types, the most common is phishing/vishing/pharming. This is the use of unsolicited email, text messages, and telephone calls purportedly from a legitimate company requesting personal, financial, and/or login credentials.

FBI deputy director Paul Abbate said in the report that among the 2021 complaints received, ransomware, business e-mail compromise schemes, and the criminal use of cryptocurrency are among the top incidents reported.

Abbate said that, in 2021, business e-mail compromise, or BEC, schemes resulted in 19,954 complaints, with an adjusted loss of nearly $2.4 billion.

He said in 2021, America experienced an unprecedented increase in cyberattacks and malicious cyber activity.

"These cyberattacks compromised businesses in an extensive array of business sectors as well as the American public," Abbate said.

The deputy director said that, as the cyber threat evolves and becomes increasingly intertwined with traditional foreign intelligence threats and emerging technologies, the FBI continues to leverage their unique authorities and partnerships to impose risks and consequences on the nation's cyber adversaries.

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Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Pursuant to Supreme Court COVID Order No. 16 (2021-ADM-0019-MSC) and Supreme Court Order regarding the Temporary Closure of the Guma' Hustisia (2021-ADM-0021-MSC and 2021-ADM-0026-MSC), the following traffic cases were continued to March 31, 2022:

Case Caption	Case Number	Citation No.	Case Caption	Case Number	Citation No.
CNMI vs. A.G.C.	21-01883-TR	2801	CNMI vs. A.G.C.	21-01883-TR	2801
CNMI vs. S.U.T.	20-00900-TR	117091	CNMI vs. S.U.T.	20-00900-TR	117091
CNMI vs. S.U.T.	20-00512-TR	118551	CNMI vs. S.U.T.	20-00512-TR	118551
CNMI vs. S.U.T.	20-01255-TR	109835	CNMI vs. S.U.T.	20-01255-TR	109835
CNMI vs. S.U.Y.	20-02390-TR	121100	CNMI vs. S.U.Y.	20-02390-TR	121100
CNMI vs. R.C.	21-02374-TR	2144	CNMI vs. R.C.	21-02374-TR	2144
CNMI vs.. B.S.	21-02387-TR	1721	CNMI vs.. B.S.	21-02387-TR	1721
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CNMI vs. K.M.R.D.	21-02574-TR	2829	CNMI vs. K.M.R.D.	21-02574-TR	2829
CNMI vs. L.H.	21-02652-TR	3581	CNMI vs. L.H.	21-02652-TR	3581
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CNMI vs. J.F.L.	21-02718-TR	4151	CNMI vs. J.F.L.	21-02718-TR	4151
CNMI vs. B.D.	21-02726-TR	4181	CNMI vs. B.D.	21-02726-TR	4181
CNMI vs. K.A.C.	21-02736-TR	3325	CNMI vs. K.A.C.	21-02736-TR	3325
CNMI vs. N.I.M.	21-02746-TR	4279	CNMI vs. N.I.M.	21-02746-TR	4279
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CNMI vs. R.P.	21-02847-TR	4197	CNMI vs. R.P.	21-02847-TR	4197

If your initials or citations are listed, you must appear at the Guma' Hustisia on March 31, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. Alternatively, you have the option of paying off your ticket at the Cashier's Office located on the first floor of the Guma' Hustisia by March 31, 2022. If you pay off your ticket, you will not be required to come to court.

Should you need any assistance, please call 670-236-9700 or email the Clerk of Court Patrick Diaz at patrick.diaz@nmijudiciary.com.

Manglona: Digital footprints show Alepuyo had bigger role

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Based on the digital footprints left on the draft of the Senate's Impeachment Rules, Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres' personal counsel, Viola Alepuyo, either created the rules from the start or played a role in drafting, reviewing, and editing the rules, according to Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) Tuesday.

In a letter to Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), Manglona reiterated his request for an immediate investigation into what he described as "improper communication" between the Senate's special counsel, Joe McDoulett, and Alepuyo that resulted in them "colluding" to draft the Senate's Impeachment Rules.

Manglona

As of press time, *Saipan Tribune* was still trying to obtain comments from Alepuyo and McDoulett.

Manglona said his letter was his second request to the Senate legal counsel to identify which laws and rules had been broken and provide the complete list of all instances when Alepuyo and McDoulett communicated and collaborated on the impeachment proceeding, as well as any additional communication or collaboration.

The senator said that he has indeed read the Impeachment Rules and that it is clear to everyone in the Commonwealth that they lean heavily in favor of Torres. "Now it appears we have some insight to how this came to be," Manglona said.

He accused Sen. Karl King-Nabors (R-Tinian), who chairs the Senate Committee on the Impeachment Hearing, of trying to minimize the "egregious nature of these violations" when he stated that there wasn't any ex parte communication because the Rules had not been adopted when Alepuyo helped draft them.

Manglona said even of King-Nabors doesn't comprehend the unethical implications of his actions, Alepuyo and McDoulett most certainly should.

"They knew who they represented and the conflicts they overlooked, but they continued to engage in this unethical behavior because they didn't think they would get caught in the act," the senator said.

King-Nabors earlier said that Alepuyo provided him some assistance in making minor edits to a draft of the Rules. King-Nabors said Manglona has "mistakenly and unjustifiably ascribed nefarious motive" to his request for Alepuyo's help.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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NOTICE OF BOARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that there will be Board Committee Meetings on Tuesday, March 29, 2022, beginning 9:30 a.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom at the Airport Fire Station, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on Saipan.

AGENDA

AIRPORT FACILITIES COMMITTEE

I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (February 25, 2022)
II. Public Comments
III. Old Business:
  1. Solar Request for Proposal (RFP) Status Report
  2. CUC Power Plant 2 (Rota)
IV. New Business:
  1. Updated Airport Facilities Committee Report
V. Executive Session (if needed)
VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
VII. Adjournment

PERSONNEL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (February 25, 2022)
II. Public Comments
III. Old Business: None.
IV. New Business:
  1. Restructure of Ports Police Department
    a. Proposed Position Description: Ports Police Officer III
    b. Amended Position Descriptions:
      i. Ports Police Officer II
      ii. Ports Police Sergeant
      iii. Ports Police Lieutenant
      iv. Ports Police Captain
    c. Proposed Organizational Chart
  2. Updated Personnel Affairs Committee Report
V. Executive Session (if needed)
VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
VII. Adjournment

SEAPORT FACILITIES COMMITTEE

I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (February 25, 2022)
II. Public Comments
III. Old Business:
  1. Tinian Marine Stevedore, Inc.
  2. Mobil Oil Marianas Lease (Saipan Seaport)
IV. New Business:
  1. Updated Seaport Facilities Committee Report
V. Executive Session (if needed)
VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
VII. Adjournment

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (February 25, 2022)
II. Public Comments
III. Old Business: None.
IV. New Business:
  1. Supplemental Budget Requests:
    a. Commuter Terminal Construction Management Services
    b. ARFF Training Facility – Professional Services, Amendment No. 3
    c. Paint Machine and Eradicator
    d. Industrial Drive
  2. Updated Financial Affairs Committee Report
V. Executive Session
  a. Phoenix Services
VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
VII. Adjournment

Written testimony on the above agenda items may be sent via email before the meeting to cpa.admin@pticom.com. Attendees (in person) must wear a mask and practice social distancing.

Barrie C. Toves, Airport Facilities Chair | Ramon A. Tebuteb, Financial Affairs Chair | Pete P. Reyes, Seaport Facilities Chair | Joseph M. Diaz, Personnel Affairs Chair

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Tel. (670) 433-9294 Fax (670) 233-0790

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Juan Taitano] FCD-DI CIVIL
] ACTION NO.
] 22-0070
-vs-]
]
]
Li Taitano]
Respondent,]
_____]

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:
LI TAITANO

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 501698 Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 18th day of February, 2022.

/s/Clerk of Court

'Road to Resilience' is theme of PSS' two-day youth conference

The Public School System held its Annual Youth Conference with the theme "Road to Resilience" yesterday and Tuesday, beginning with the Middle School Youth Conference on Tuesday, March 22, from 8:30am to 1:00pm at the Kensington Hotel Saipan's Kensington Hall and the High School Youth Conference yesterday, Wednesday, March 23, also at the Kensington Hall.

In compliance with COVID-19 safety guidelines, guest numbers were limited and the conference's breakout sessions took place in multiple rooms inside Kensington Hall.

For this year, Tinian's youth conference is yet to be decided and the theme is "Grow, Grow, Stallions. Rota's youth conference is scheduled for Friday, April 29, 2022.

According to Elfriede Suda, State Personal Responsibility Education program coordinator, the conference is "an annual youth conference where PREP, a Teenage Pregnancy Program with CNMI Public School Systems through the Office of Students and Support Services, coordinates positive youth development activities such as the youth conference."

She said PREP coordinates the event with advisers of the Youth Advisory Panel (a student-led group in every school) and student leaders and pairs them with the varying PSS Programs, Office of Instructional Technology & Distance Learning Education and Mental Health, and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. for the presentations that were the skeleton of the two days, said Suda.

A prerecorded video of inspirational speaker Thomas Manglona II was presented during the conference, where he encourages the youth to "ask questions, ask a lot of them. Ask questions that might be uncomfortable, but mostly that challenge the status quo…on topics of inclusion, self-care, our role in society…that can help us have a healthier mind, a healthier body, and will lead to a healthier you."

During the conferences' breakout sessions, student leaders from their respective middle schools and high schools presented—with the guidance of participating community partners.

The breakout topics included Digital Citizenship by Saipan Southern High School YAP and PSS IT/DE; Self-Care, by Kagman High School YAP & PSS Mental Health Program, Students & Support Services; Inclusion: Celebrating Pride & Allyship, by Marianas High School YAP & PSS Mental Health Program, Students & Support Services; Healthy Mind, Healthy Body, Healthy Me, by Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. Family Planning Program.

Schools that joined the conference were Tanapag Middle School, Dandan Middle School, Chacha Oceanview Middle School, Hopwood Middle School, Fransisco M. Sablan Middle School, Marianas High School, Kagman High School, Saipan Southern High School, and Da'ok Academy. ***(Leigh Gases)***

AMENDED MINIMUM BID
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For more information, please contact the Bank of Guam through its counsel, Robert T. Torres at Telephone Numbers (670) 234-7859 - (670) 234-5750.

Bids will be closed on
THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2022 AT 4:00 P.M

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all offers

The vehicle will be sold to the highest bidder "as is, where is" without any warranties –
Amended Minimum bid is $13,000.00
All bids must be received by 4:00p.m

Please call to schedule an inspection.
Vehicle bid form can be obtained from Bank of Guam counsel's office at:

ROBERT TENORIO TORRES
Attorney at Law
Chalan Kiya
P.O. Box 500730 CK Saipan, MP 96950

Let's join together in celebrating this historic day for the CNMI.
★★★ HAPPY ★★★
COMMONWEALTH COVENANT DAY
From the Office of Senate President
Jude Untalan Hofschneider
and the Members of the 22nd Senate
Commonwealth Legislature and staff

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Some Americans, just like Russians, don't know they're being played for fools

A deeper dive into the ways Russia is prosecuting its propaganda war against Ukraine reveals startling similarities with how former President Donald Trump waged his propaganda campaign regarding U.S. election integrity. Trump made no secret of his admiration for Russian President Vladimir Putin, so it should come as no surprise that the two share the same level of contempt for facts when it comes to advancing their political goals.

Both started by introducing a lie as if it were an indisputable fact. Both leaders repeated their baseless assertions so often, joined by complicit aides and political allies, that the assertions wound up as regular topics of discussion on social media and in news broadcasts. Trump's principal propaganda-circulation outlet was Fox News. Among his loudest cheerleaders was, and is, commentator Tucker Carlson. Putin, who has annihilated independent news coverage in his country, also relies on Carlson to advance his propaganda.

After the 2016 election, Trump established the myth that the U.S. election system was tainted with fraud—all because he couldn't accept the fact that Hillary Clinton received nearly 3 million more popular votes than Trump. Even after becoming president, Trump persisted and formed a commission to investigate vote fraud. The commission disbanded after turning up nothing to substantiate Trump's claims, but Republican state legislatures passed laws to root out fraud that didn't exist. Before the 2020 election, Trump revived his fraud claims. His followers were so fooled that they stormed the Capitol to halt Congress' confirmation of Joe Biden's election.

For Putin, back in 2014, the myth was that Ukrainians were crying out to be unified with Russia. On that basis, he ordered his military to back separatists in eastern Ukraine. He seized control of Crimea, then annexed it. Now Putin is using his propaganda machine to advance the myth that Ukraine is overrun by Nazis, and that only a Russian "special operation" (invasion) can save the Ukrainian people.

Film star and Republican former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has recorded a nine-minute video, with Russian subtitles, specifically designed to debunk Putin's propaganda. In the video, he scoffs at the de-Nazification pretext, noting that Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, is Jewish. "A Jewish president, I might add, whose father and three brothers were all murdered by the Nazis," Schwarzenegger says. It's doubtful Putin's government will allow the video to be viewed in his country.

But Carlson's commentaries are cheered by Russian state television. In fact, Russia went so far as to hire a voice-over actor who mimics Carlson's delivery style in a dubbed Russian version of his pro-Putin Ukraine commentaries.

Just as Carlson advanced Trump's election-fraud propaganda, he is now helping Russia by advancing a Putin assertion that the United States helped Ukraine develop biological weapons. It's a truly sad day when some Americans prove no better than Russians in realizing that they're being played for fools.

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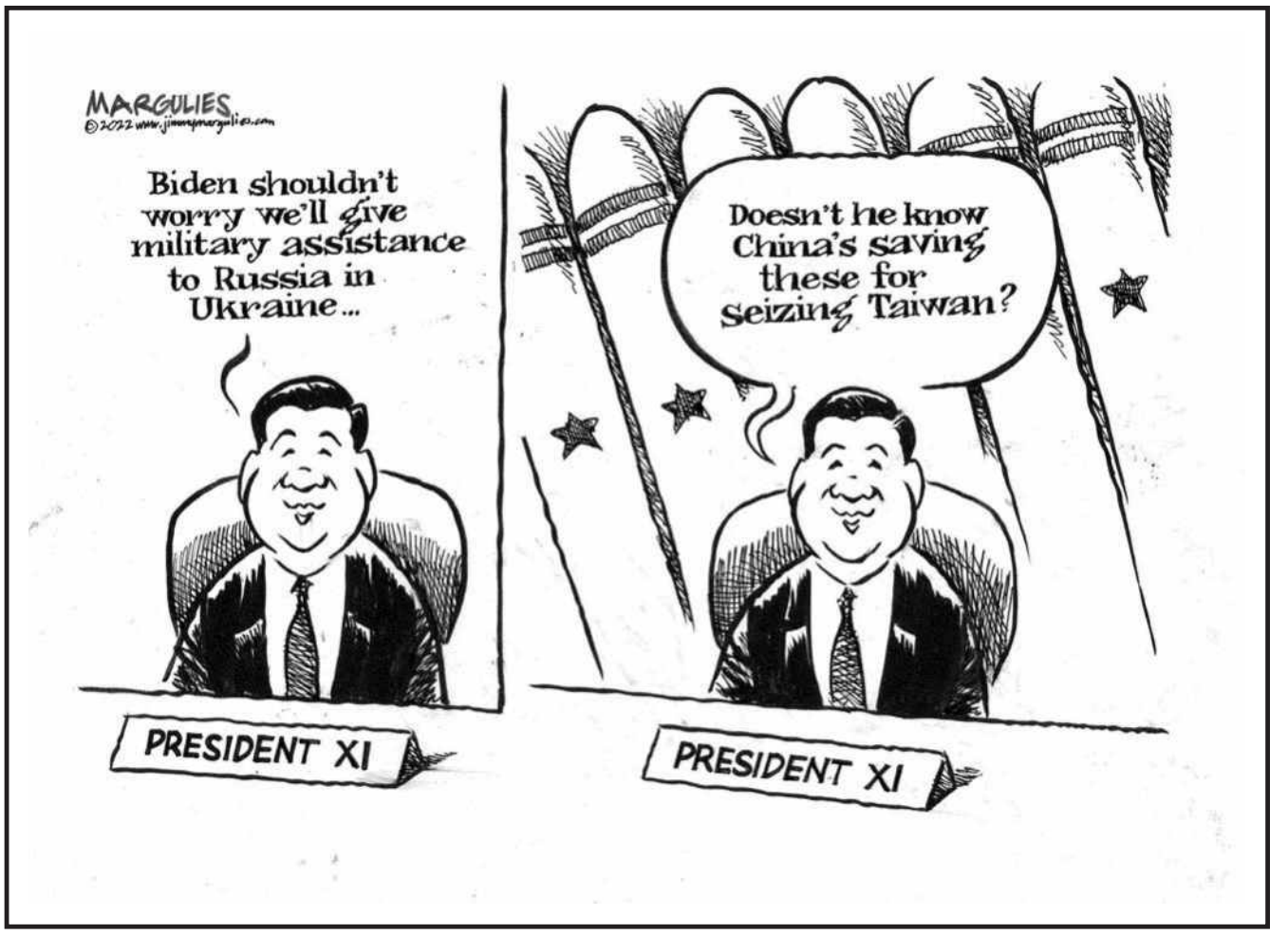
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Biden shouldn't worry we'll give military assistance to Russia in Ukraine...
PRESIDENT XI
Doesn't he know China's saving these for seizing Taiwan?
PRESIDENT XI

Senate president will act as presiding officer

Editor's Note: The following is from the office of Senate president Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian):

The Senate is proceeding with its constitutional duty to conduct a hearing on the impeachment of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres despite the continued obstruction of the House of Representatives. Vice Speaker BJ Attao's recent statement declining to act as House impeachment prosecutor demonstrates the vice speaker's refusal to recognize the division of duties the Constitution describes in the context of impeachment. The Constitution does not require the House of Representatives to act as the impeachment prosecution. The Senate drafted rules that afforded the House the opportunity to act in that capacity as we felt they would be prepared to present the arguments they have so forcefully advocated in the press. It appears now the House is not equal to the task of confronting the opposing defense against those articles and is advancing any excuse to slow the impeachment process. The Senate will not be deterred.

Deadlines are not going to be extended any longer. I accept vice speaker Attao's March 21, 2022, [letter] as a declination to serve as House impeachment prosecutor. I will name the impeachment prosecutor for the House pursuant to Rule 7(a)(2) of the Senate Rules of Impeachment. The House may, as is its prerogative, continue to refuse to appear in the impeachment hearing. The absence of a House impeachment prosecutor will not serve to end the proceedings of impeachment. Upon the date set for hearing the presiding officer will call the hearing to order and call upon the parties to present their cases. If no prosecutor is present to make the arguments before the Senate, the hearing will proceed on the record as it exists at that time.

Constitutionality

Perhaps the most glaring example of the vice speaker's own lack of understanding of the law and the Constitution is his insistence that the House has some constitutionally mandated role to perform in the upcoming hearing in the Senate. The vice speaker cites no language in the Constitution, nor would it be possible for him to do so, where the members of the House are assigned a role in the Senate's hearing. There is no such language in the Constitution. The NMI Constitution, Article II, Section 8 provides that "[t]he House of Representatives may initiate impeachment proceedings by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of its members and the Senate may convict after hearing by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of its members." Article II, Section 8 governs how the work is to be divided. The Senate had no role to play in the initiation of the proceedings in the House. The House could have, if it so desired, given a role for the Senate to play in their own impeachment hearings. They did not. The Senate did not complain of a lack of fairness or a non-existent lack of constitutionality. Similarly, the Constitution does not direct the House be the prosecution of the impeachment hearing. In the interest of a complete hearing, the Senate chose to include the House members in the hearing of the evidence against the governor. If, as has been suggested, the Senate wished to slant the evidence in the governor's favor, the rules should have been written to exclude the participation of the House members from the Hearing completely. We chose, instead, to include the House.

The process of drafting the work was the work of two committees, the Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, chaired by Se. Francisco Q. Cruz; and the Committee on Judiciary, Government, Law, and Federal Relations, chaired by Sen. Karl R. King-Nabors. The joint committee presented its draft rules to the full Senate for adoption after public comment and comment by the members of the Senate. All members of the Senate had ample opportunity to comment and offer amendments to the proposed rules. No member of the Senate proposed any amendments to the rules which would have affected identification of the impeachment prosecutor. The Senate, as a body, found the rules as promulgated to be constitutional, fair, and balanced.

To further muddy the waters, the members of the House continue to suggest the rules somehow permit the appointed committee to dispose of the Articles of Impeachment directly in violation of the Constitution. This appears to be a purposeful misreading of the rules in an effort to provide misinformation to the public. In any rational reading of the Rules of Impeachment, the only way the Articles of Impeachment are disposed of is by a vote in the full body of the Senate requiring a two-thirds vote in order to convict. This requirement conforms to the requirements of the Constitution for conviction upon impeachment. I am at a loss to explain the continued insistence of the members of the House on promulgating blatantly false information to the public.

It is also apparent that vice speaker Attao takes a contorted

See SENATE on Next Page

By JUDE U. HOFSCHNEIDER
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jude U. Hofschneider is the Senate president of the 22nd Legislature.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Torres' statement on Covenant Day

Almost five decades ago, President Gerald R. Ford signed a document that resulted in one of the most unique political relationships in modern democracy—a Commonwealth in political union with the United States.

Today, we commemorate the signing of that honorable accord, which is our sacred agreement with the United States and the foundation of our government.

We remain committed to ensuring that our Covenant upholds our founders' original intent, which is to promote economic self-sufficiency in the modern world economy and to raise the standard of living for the people who call these islands home, through protecting safety and wellbeing, achieving healthcare goals, expanding educational opportunities for our students, building resilient infrastructure, and revitalizing our economy.

On this day, while we reflect upon the progress that we have made as a Commonwealth, we also continue to look toward the future, with partnership and collaboration at the heart of our work for the best interests of everyone in the Marianas.

From my family to yours, may all of you have a safe and restful Covenant Day.

By RALPH DLG TORRES
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ralph DLG Torres is governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The people of Yemen need our help, too

By KATHY KELLY
PROGRESSIVE PERSPECTIVES

The United Nations' goal was to raise more than $4.2 billion for the people of war-torn Yemen by March 15. But when that deadline rolled around, just $1.3 billion had come in.

"I am deeply disappointed," said Jan Egeland, the secretary general of the Norwegian Refugee Council. "The people of Yemen need the same level of support and solidarity that we've seen for the people of Ukraine. The crisis in Europe will dramatically impact Yemenis' access to food and fuel, making an already dire situation even worse."

With Yemen importing more than 35% of its wheat from Russia and Ukraine, disruption to wheat supplies will cause soaring increases in the price of food.

"Since the onset of the Ukraine conflict, we have seen the prices of food skyrocket by more than 150 percent," said Basheer Al Selwi, a spokesperson for the International Commission of the Red Cross in Yemen. "Millions of Yemeni families don't know how to get their next meal."

The ghastly blockade and bombardment of Yemen, led by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, is now entering its eighth year. The United Nations estimated last fall that the Yemen death toll would top 377,000 people by the end of 2021.

The United States continues to supply spare parts for Saudi/UAE coalition war planes, along with maintenance and a steady flow of armaments. Without this support, the Saudis couldn't continue their murderous aerial attacks.

Yet tragically, instead of condemning atrocities committed by the Saudi/UAE invasion, bombing and blockade of Yemen, the United States is cozying up to the leaders of these countries. As sanctions against Russia disrupt global oil sales, the United States is entering talks to become increasingly reliant on Saudi and UAE oil production. And Saudi Arabia and the UAE don't want to increase their oil production without a U.S. agreement to help them increase their attacks against Yemen.

Human rights groups have decried the Saudi/UAE-led coalition for bombing roadways, fisheries, sewage and sanitation facilities, weddings, funerals and even a children's school bus. In a recent attack, the Saudis killed 60 African migrants held in a detention center in Saada.

The Saudi blockade of Yemen has choked off essential imports needed for daily life, forcing the Yemeni people to depend on relief groups for survival.

There is another way. U.S. Reps. Pramila Jayapal of Washington and Peter De Fazio of Oregon, both Democrats, are now seeking cosponsors for the Yemen War Powers Resolution. It demands that Congress cut military support for the Saudi/UAE-led coalition's war against Yemen.

The Saudis have long insisted on a deeply flawed U.N. resolution that calls on the Houthi fighters to disarm but never even mentions the U.S. backed Saudi/UAE coalition as being among the warring parties. The Houthis say they will come to the negotiating table but cannot rely on the Saudis as mediators. This seems reasonable, given Saudi Arabia's vengeful treatment of Yemenis.

The people of the United States have the right to insist that U.S. foreign policy be predicated on respect for human rights, equitable sharing of resources and an earnest commitment to end all wars. We should urge Congress to use the leverage it has for preventing continued aerial bombardment of Yemen and sponsor Jayapal's and De Fazio's forthcoming resolution.

We can also summon the humility and courage to acknowledge U.S. attacks against Yemeni civilians, make reparations and repair the dreadful systems undergirding our unbridled militarism.

Kathy Kelly, a peace activist and author, co-coordinates the Ban Killer Drones campaign and is president of World Beyond War's board of directors. This column was produced for Progressive Perspectives, which is run by The Progressive magazine, and distributed by Tribune News Service.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Tasi to Table thanks Mobil and IT&E

On behalf of Tasi to Table and its student members, we would like to thanks Mobil and IT&E for their generous support of our student-led 3rd Annual Wahoo in the Marianas fishing derby.

The tournament was a huge success and we can thank these sponsors for making it happen. We had happy anglers coming in with full coolers and our winning wahoos were the biggest they have been in the derby's history. We were also able to send six students out in boats to participate in their first ever derby and the students who worked tirelessly on the day of the event were able to bring home fresh wahoo and mahi to their families.

We truly appreciate the support of Mobil and IT&E and their support for not just TTT but the CNMI community as a whole. We look forward to continue to working with you in the future!

Dan Wollak
Vice president, Tasi to Table

SENATE

From Page 8

view of case law as it applies to impeachment when it does not conform to his narrative. The center of the discussion about the Senate rules of impeachment has been the case of *Nixon v. United States*, 506 U.S. 224 (1993). In *Nixon* the Supreme Court of the United States was asked to decide whether the impeachment of a judge was constitutional where the hearing was conducted in committee as opposed to the full senate. The evidence of the impeachment was presented to a committee and reported to the full senate for vote, just as the Rules of Impeachment permit in Gov. Torres' impeachment hearing. The judge, who was impeached, complained to the Supreme Court saying the Rules violated the Senate's authority because it prohibited the "whole Senate from taking part in the evidentiary hearings." The Court disagreed. The Supreme Court held that the Senate had the authority to craft its rules as the Senate saw fit and that the court could not and would not review the Senate's decisions. The Senate has drafted rules in conformance with the Constitution. The House may believe the rules to be unfair. The vice speaker confuses the concept of unfairness to his agenda and narrative to be the same thing as unconstitutional. If the vice speaker is convinced he has an argument against the holdings of *Nixon*, the correct course of action is to request a review before our Supreme Court, not to misstate the holdings in a misguided attempt to discredit the Senate. I am confident the Court will agree with the holdings of *Nixon* and find the Vice Speaker's claims of unconstitutionality to be unfounded.

The distractions from impeachment

The vice speaker continues to attempt to confuse the people of the CNMI by creating a false narrative of Attorney McDoulett's assistance to the Senate. Of special concern is the conclusion that "it is beyond dispute that only the Legislative Bureau legal counsel can provide legal assistance to the CNMI Legislature in sessions and committee meetings." Such a statement is a tortured reading of the Constitution at best. Rep. Christina Sablan, as a member of two special committees devoted to the investigations of the charges against Gov. Torres, hired private counsel Charity Hodson for legal advice. At the time, Rep. Sablan stated, "I thought it was important to have independent counsel outside of the Legislative Bureau." It is hypocrisy on the part of the members of the House to decry the hiring of independent counsel when it has been a common practice of the House in the context of this very impeachment. What is beyond dispute is that the vice speaker and other members of the House are eager to pursue any distraction to avoid a hearing in the Senate.

Another well-worn complaint from the House speaker is related to the Open Government Act. At no time did the Senate willfully violate the OGA. Nor was there any impact on the public's ability to view and evaluate the proposed rules of impeachment. To the contrary, the public was afforded opportunity to speak at both sessions involving the proposed rules of impeachment. These arguments are another example of the vice speaker and other members of the House actively avoiding the true issues of presenting a valid case in an impeachment hearing. The Senate's only focus is to proceed with the hearing of impeachment.

Finally, much has been made of Sen. Nabors' contact with attorney Alepuyo prior to her engagement by the governor as his counsel. Sen. Nabors has explained to the public and the Senate leadership his contact with attorney Alepuyo. Vice speaker Attao claims that this contact with attorney Alepuyo renders any product of the joint committee overseeing the drafting of the rules unconstitutional because vice speaker Attao believes any contact with an attorney falls under his newly invented constitutional prohibition against any member of the Legislature seeking advice from an attorney outside of the Legislative Bureau. As already noted, members of the House have made it a common practice to consult and hire independent counsel. To also suggest they must never speak or consult with an attorney privately is simply a ridiculous argument. In any event, the only measure of the Rules' constitutionality is the content of the rules as written.

Conclusion

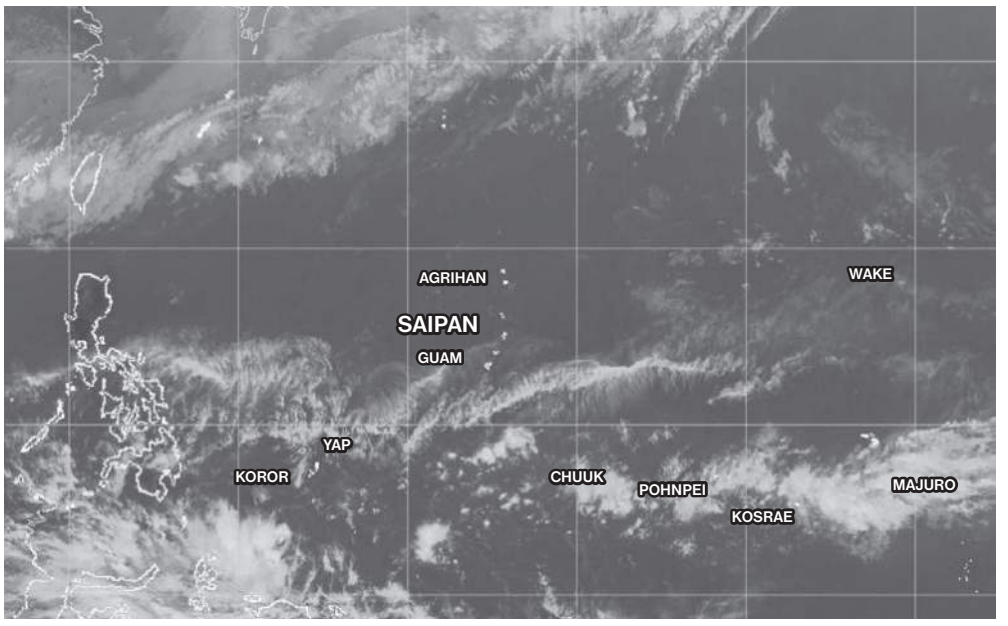
The only thing impeding a "fair, diligent, and speedy impeachment trial" is the unreasonable conduct of the members of the House. The vice speaker and other members of the House appear to seek a trial of the governor in the court of public opinion but do not wish to allow evidence to be heard against their conclusory allegations. The Senate, on the other hand, is determined to have a hearing on the impeachment. To effectuate that goal, I will discharge the Special Committee on the Impeachment Hearing pursuant to Senate Rule 7, Section 1. I do not discharge the special committee because it is unconstitutional or because any senator has acted inappropriately. I do so only to encourage the House to participate in the impeachment hearing by eliminating one of the unjustified concerns expressed by vice speaker Attao and other members of the House. The Senate will proceed to hold the hearing before the entire body in accordance with Rule 3(a) of the Senate Impeachment Rules. I will act as the presiding officer for the hearing before the full body of the Senate. A hearing date has yet to be set. I invite the House of Representatives to suggest one of its members who would be willing to present the case against the governor. I will recognize that member in accordance with the authority granted to me by the Constitution and Rule (7)(a)(2). Should the House refuse to participate, the hearing will proceed.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
87º 77º	87º 76º	87º 76º	87º 77º	87º 77º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:22 AM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A dry and quiet weather pattern is in place across the Marianas, with partly cloudy skies, isolated light showers and moderate trade winds. Seas at the buoys are indicated at between 6 and 7 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloud	31 / 25 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F
Yap	Thunderstorms	30 / 25 °F
Chuuk	Scattered Thunderstorm	29 / 26 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	28 / 26 °F
Majuro	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	06:18 AM	18:28 PM
Friday	06:17 AM	18:28 PM
Saturday	06:17 AM	18:28 PM
Sunday	06:16 AM	18:28 PM
Monday	06:15 AM	18:28 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Tuesday	-	10:46 PM	-
Friday	00:20	11:45 PM	-
Saturday	01:23	12:47 PM	-
Sunday	02:22	13:50 PM	-
Monday	02:22	14:51 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	AM Light Rain/Wind	23 / 17 °F
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	16 / 7 °F
Hong Kong	Showers	22 / 21 °F
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy/Wind	27 / 22 °F
London	Mostly Sunny	18 / 3 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	29 / 14 °F
Manila	Mostly Sunny	35 / 26 °F
Melbourne	AM Clouds/PM Sun	20 / 12 °F
Miami	Partly Cloudy	28 / 20 °F
New York	Rain	12 / 9 °F
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	15 / 6 °F
Paris	Sunny	21 / 6 °F
Busan	Sunny	16 / 9 °F
Rome	Sunny	20 / 4 °F
Salem	Sunny	20 / 7 °F
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	15 / 9 °F
Seoul	AM Clouds/PM Sun	14 / 4 °F
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	15 / 7 °F
Washington, DC	Showers	20 / 8 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:42 AM	High Tide	1.66
05:58 AM	Low Tide	1.16
11:05 AM	High Tide	1.77
6:44 PM	Low Tide	0.17

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH/APRIL 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:20am	8:05am	2, 4, 6
UA117	9:50am	10:35am	1, 3, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:30am	8:20am	1, 3, 5
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:20am	9:50pm	2, 4, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	Every 4 days (Jan 29-Mar 30)
TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	4, 7
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	ICN 2x weekly – T'Way, OZ, Jeju

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM

PUS 2x weekly – Air Busan last flight Mar 30

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA116	5:30am	6:16am	2, 4, 6
UA116	8:00am	8:46am	7
UA174	8:00am	8:46am	1, 3, 5

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	2, 4, 7
UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:55pm	4:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/116	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/116	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 7 via Guam
UA184/116	10:55pm	8:46am+1	6 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	Every 4 days (Jan 29-Mar 30)
TW9307	9:00AM	Q2:30PM	4, 7
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	ICN 2x weekly – T'Way, OZ, Jeju

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM

ICN 2x weekly – Air Seoul
PUS 2x weekly – Jeju starting Mar 30
MWX Muan 2x weekly - Jeju starting Mar 30

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Aid groups urged to apply for Emergency Food and Shelter funding

The Commonwealth has been chosen to receive $341,055 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs throughout the Commonwealth.

The selection was made by a national board that is chaired by the U. S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from American Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA; The Jewish Federations of North America; The Salvation Army; and United Way Worldwide.

A CNMI board, made up of local community stakeholders, will determine how the funds awarded to the CNMI are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service agencies.

The local board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds (Phase39) and any additional funds (ARPA-R) allocated under this program.

Under the terms of the grant from the national board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must: 1) be private voluntary nonprofits or units of government, 2) be eligible to receive federal funds, 3) have an accounting system, 4) practice nondiscrimination, 5) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and 6) if they are a private voluntary organization, have a voluntary board. Qualifying agencies are urged to apply.

The NMI EFSP board recently distributed emergency food and shelter funds to Karidat Social Services, The Salvation Army, Empty Vessel Ministries, Team Koka (Tinian), The Ohala Foundation (Tinian), and Marianas Food Bank. These agencies were responsible for providing thousands of meals and hundreds of nights of lodging and utility assistance. Public or private voluntary agencies interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds should contact local board chair John Hirsh at John.Hirsh@redcross.org or 670-234-3459 for more information. The deadline for applications to be received is 5pm on Monday March 28, 2022. ***(PR)***

VAO Iakopo meets with ranking 9th Mission Support Command officials

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs executive officer Stanley T. Iakopo, center, meets with Col. Mark W. Siekman, 9MSC Commander, left, and Col. Dominique Cummings, DCS G3/5/7.

CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs executive officer Stanley T. Iakopo earlier this year met with Col. Mark W. Siekman, commander of the 9th Mission Support Command, at the U.S. Army Reserve Headquarters Fort Shafter Honolulu, Hawaii.

"I had the privilege to meet with Col. Siekman to discuss the 9th MSC's capacity and commitment in supporting our veterans and their families. For the last four years, the Office of Veterans Affairs has been fostering and maintaining a healthy relationship with the 9th MSC Commanders through open communication and collaboration in providing assistance during military funeral honors," said Iakopo.

"When a veteran or a dependent of a veteran passes away, a family member provides a proof of death certificate to our office, and we then send the request to the Casualty Assistance Center located within Schofield Barracks in Hawaii. From there, a request for a funeral tasker is sent to the 9th MSC, if it is for an Army veteran.

"When processing honor burials for other branches of service such as Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard, our office sends the request directly to the respective branch that the veteran served in. Preparing for a military funeral demands detailed information and specific steps to be taken.

"In every military funeral honors, I can see, feel, and hear the family's emotional pain, skepticism, and even anger during this whole process. It is not until the sight and sounds of Taps at the ceremony that they seem to have some closure and reassurance that their loved one is safe," added Iakopo.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres extends his continued appreciation to the CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs for their continued support for the veterans of the CNMI and their families, "I would like to thank [Iakopo] and the CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs for continuing to find ways to help our veterans and their families, especially through important partnerships such as that with the 9th Mission Support Command." ***(PR)***

Water service Interruption today

There will be a scheduled emergency water service interruption for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in portions of Papago, San Vicente, Upper Dandan Homestead and Obyan on Thursday, March 24, 2022, from 8:30am to 4:30pm.

This is due to a leak repair on the entrance of Palu Lane and Nativo Drive in San Vicente. CUC operators are scheduled to make the necessary repairs and anticipate completion by 4:30pm today. Customers should expect restoration of water services soon after.

Motorists are asked to proceed with caution when traveling through the working area as CUC water operations personnel will be working on the shoulder of Isa Drive. CUC appreciates the public's cooperation and understanding as we continue to provide reliable service to the people of the CNMI. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM • WEBSITE:WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) hereby gives notice that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Tuesday, March 29, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom at the Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan. The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes (February 25, 2022)

II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

III. CORRESPONDENCES

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS
1. Financial Affairs Committee
2. Airport Facilities Committee
3. Seaport Facilities Committee
4. Personnel Affairs Committee

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

VI. OLD BUSINESS:
1. CUC Power Plant 2 (Rota)

VII. NEW BUSINESS:
1. Restructure of Ports Police Department
   a. Proposed Position Description: Ports Police Officer III
   b. Amended Position Descriptions:
      i. Ports Police Officer II
      ii. Ports Police Sergeant
      iii. Ports Police Lieutenant
      iv. Ports Police Captain
   c. Proposed Organizational Chart
2. Supplemental Budget Requests:
   a. Commuter Terminal Construction Management Services
   b. ARFF Training Facility – Professional Services, Amendment No. 3
   c. Paint Machine and Eradicator
   d. Industrial Drive

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- Legal Counsel Reports: Legal matters/Litigation

IX. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

X. ADJOURNMENT

Persons are welcome to submit oral or written testimony on the agenda items. Attendees (in person) must wear a mask and practice social distancing.

KIMBERLYN KING-HINDS
Chairwoman, Board of Directors

March 22, 2022

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FULL-TIME
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Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairperson of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 28, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance. In compliance with the CNMI COVID-19 guidelines, Face-masks must be worn, social distancing will be enforced, and not more than ten (10) people will be allowed in the conference room during the course of the meeting.

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda
   d. Adoption of Minutes
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
   a. Financial Report Update
IV. OLD BUSINESS
   a. CDBG-DR Updates
V. NEW BUSINESS
   a. CDBG-MIT Draft Action Plan and Draft Implementation Plan for Review and Approval
   b. Return and Reallocation of Credits for Isa Villas II
   c. Amendment of NMHC By-Laws
   d. Corporate Credit Card
VI. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT
VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VIII. OTHER MATTERS
IX. ADJOURNMENT

(Notes: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13 (a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/
Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane
Chairperson of the Board

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370 SAIPAN, MP 96950

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Seventeenth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Friday, March 25, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. via zoom. Please see the link below.

AGENDA[1]

I. Preliminary
   1. Call to Order
   2. Roll Call
   3. Adoption of Agenda
II. Public Comments[2]
III. Unfinished Business
IV. New Business
   1. Proposed Budget for FY2023
   2. Consolidated Grant Application for SY '22-'23
   3. Proclamation: April 2022 as Library Month
   4. Hopwood Middle School
   5. Certification & Licensure Matters
      a. CLO Report No. 2022-17-02
V. Executive Session[3]
   1. Legal Updates
   2. Personnel
   3. Other matters
VI. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting
VII. Adjournment

***https://zoom.us/j/94509509830?pwd=dmVBZE15d2oxZ3R6cDN-NV2djQlgrUT09**
Meeting ID: 945 0950 9803 Passcode: 170763

[1] In the event that the items on the agenda are not completed, the meeting will recess and reconvene on the following day or at the most expeditious date and time determined by the Board.
[2] Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[3] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Business

FDA details problems at plant behind recalled baby formula

WASHINGTON (AP) — Baby formula maker Abbott failed to maintain sanitary conditions and procedures at the Michigan manufacturing plant recently linked to a cluster of infant illnesses, according to findings released Tuesday by federal safety inspectors.

The Food and Drug Administration posted its initial inspection findings from the Abbott plant that's been tied to several infant hospitalizations, including two deaths, due to a rare bacterial infection. Abbott recalled various lots of three popular powdered infant formulas in mid-February. FDA inspectors have been on-site inspecting the Sturgis, Michigan, facility since late January.

Abbott didn't maintain clean surfaces used in producing and handling the powdered formula, according to the FDA inspection, which concluded last week. Additionally, inspectors found a history of contamination with the bacteria, known as cronobacter, including eight instances between fall 2019 and February of this year.

The report gives the agency's preliminary findings and is likely to be followed by a formal report and a warning to the company.

4 Guam, Micronesia leaders named to senior leadership roles at Matson

» Patrick Bulaon promoted to VP and GM, Guam/Micronesia

Valencia

Isotoff

Bulaon

Angoco

HONOLULU—In a series of new appointments and promotions involving four Guam executives, Matson announced yesterday that Patrick Bulaon, operations manager, Guam and Micronesia, is being promoted to vice president and general manager, Guam/Micronesia, effective April 1, 2022.

In his new role, Bulaon assumes responsibility for overseeing all operations and sales activity of Matson's Western Pacific and Micronesia regions, which include Guam, the CNMI, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, and Okinawa, Japan.

Originally from Guam, Bulaon joined Matson in 2021 and previously served in various operations and sales management positions over 28 years in Guam, CNMI, Micronesia, Southeast Asia, and the South Pacific for ExxonMobil and PacifiCare Asia Pacific.

Bulaon has been a member of the Rotary Club of Northern Guam, the Guam Chamber of Commerce, and Guam Contractor's Association. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and finance from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and is a 1986 graduate of Father Dueñas Memorial School.

Bulaon succeeds Bernadette "Bernie" Valencia, who has been appointed vice president, sales – Hawaii with responsibility for all sales and marketing activities in Matson's largest trade lane, effective April 1, 2022.

Valencia succeeds Len Isotoff, who is being promoted to succeed Vic Angoco as senior vice president, Pacific, effective April 1, 2022.

Angoco has been appointed to succeed the retiring Bal Dreyfus as senior vice president, Alaska, based in Anchorage, effective July 1, 2022.

"Matson works at developing talented leaders and Guam has certainly produced more than its share," said Matson chairman and chief executive officer Matt Cox. "Vic is one of Matson's most experienced and trusted leaders. Likewise, Len, Bernie and Patrick are among the next generation of senior leaders at Matson and are well positioned to help lead us into the future."

Valencia joined Matson in 2008, bringing a successful 15-year track record of business accomplishments and deep knowledge of the local business communities in Guam and Micronesia. Starting as sales/customer service manager, she was later named general manager, Guam and was promoted to her current position in 2017.

Valencia holds a bachelor's degree in Aviation Maintenance from San Jose State University. She is the cofounder and a board member of iCAN Resources, a Guam nonprofit organization that employs and provides life skills to the disabled community and was recently appointed to the University of Guam Board of Regents. She has been an active member of many organizations, some of which include the USO Advisory Council, The Employer's Council, and the Guam Women's Chamber of Commerce.

In his new role as senior vice president, Pacific, Isotoff will be responsible for all of Matson's Hawaii, Guam, Micronesia and South Pacific operations. A native of Chuuk, Isotoff joined Matson in 1999 as Logistics Manager on Guam and has served in a variety of successive roles, including sales / customer service manager in Guam, Pacific Northwest sales manager, container operations manager in Honolulu and general manager, Guam/Micronesia. He was promoted to his current position in 2016.

Isotoff holds a bachelor's degree in business management from Oregon State University. He serves on the Historic Hawaii Foundation Board of Trustees and the Navy League Honolulu Council.

Angoco began his 32-year maritime career on Guam and has held a wide range of operations and sales management roles. He joined Matson in 1996 as operations manager on Guam, and quickly rose through the ranks in successive sales, customer service and operations leadership positions in Guam and Hawaii. He was promoted to his current position in 2010.

"We are proud of our roots in Guam and Micronesia. Having four executives from the Pacific advance simultaneously in one company is a testament to Matson's investment in its team and our region," Angoco added. "Patrick will carry on the tradition of leading the Guam and Micronesia operations as a son of Guam and proudly serve the community we call home." ***(PR)***

Nation

1 killed after tornado rips through NOLA, suburbs

AP

A debris lined street is seen in the Lower 9th Ward, Tuesday, March 22, 2022, in New Orleans, after strong storms moved through the area.

ARABI, La. (AP)—A tornado tore through parts of New Orleans and its suburbs Tuesday night, flipping cars, ripping roofs off homes and killing at least one person in a region that was pummeled by Hurricane Katrina 17 years ago.

Parts of St. Bernard Parish, which borders New Orleans to the southeast, appeared to take the brunt of the weather's fury, and that is where the fatality occurred. St. Bernard Parish officials gave no details on how the person died; they said multiple other people were injured.

Rescue workers were searching through the suburban parish for more people in need of assistance, according to Sheriff Jimmy Pohlmann. St. Bernard Parish President Guy McInnis said the tornado caused widespread damage throughout the parish.

Other tornadoes spawned by the same storm system had hit parts of Texas and Oklahoma, killing one person Monday and causing multiple injuries and widespread damage.

In New Orleans, local television stations broadcast live images of the storm as it barreled across the region.

The tornado appeared to start in a suburb and then move east across the Mississippi River into the Lower 9th Ward of New Orleans and parts of St. Bernard Parish—both of which were badly damaged by Katrina—before moving northeast.

Many residents also suffered damage just last year when Hurricane Ida—a Category 4 hurricane—swept through the region. Stacey Mancuso's family had just completed repairs to their home in the suburb of Arabi after Ida ripped off the roof and caused extensive water damage. Then the tornado Tuesday tore through their street. She huddled in the laundry room with her husband; two children, ages 16 and 11; and dogs as part of their new roof was lifted away by the wind.

"We're alive. That's what I can say at this point. We still have four walls and part of a roof. I consider myself lucky," said Mancuso. Still, the twister was the third time they've had major weather damage since Katrina in 2005.

In Arabi, there was a strong smell of natural gas in the air as residents and rescue personnel stood in the street and surveyed the damage. Some houses were destroyed while pieces of debris hung from electrical wires and trees. An aluminum fishing boat in front of one house was bent into the shape of a C with the motor across the street. Power poles were down and leaning over, forcing emergency workers to walk slowly through darkened neighborhoods checking for damage.

Michelle Malasovich lives in Arabi. Initially she had been worried about family that lives in areas north of Louisiana that were also getting hit by bad weather. She was texting with her family there when, she said, "All of a sudden the lights started flickering."

Six students killed in crash with semi

TISHOMINGO, Okla. (AP)—Six teenage students have been killed in a two-vehicle collision in southern Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Highway Patrol said Tuesday.

The students were in a passenger vehicle that collided with a semi about 12:30 p.m. in Tishomingo, a rural city of about 3,000 located about 100 miles (161 kilometers) southwest of Oklahoma City, according to OHP spokesperson Sarah Stewart.

The girls were eastbound on Oklahoma 22 when their vehicle was struck by a rock hauler that was approaching from the east on U.S. 377, OHP Trooper Shelby Humphrey told KXII-TV of nearby Sherman, Texas.

Maps show the intersection is at the end of a 90-degree curve of U.S. 377 from east to south. The girls' car was making a right turn when it collided with the truck, Humphrey said.

Stewart said she did not have the exact ages of the students, but all six victims were female. The condition of the semi driver was not immediately known.

Images from the scene of the crash showed a virtually destroyed black vehicle with what appeared to be a pink steering wheel among the rubble.

Tishomingo Public School Superintendent Bobby Waitman said in a Facebook post that the district had "a great loss" involving students from the district's high school.

"Our hearts are broken, and we are grieving with our students and staff," said Waitman, who did not immediately return a phone call on Tuesday.

Waitman said counselors would be available at the high school throughout the night Tuesday and that school would be open on Wednesday with a focus on "the emotional well-being of our students."

Asia

Search at China crash site suspended because of rain

AP

In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, rescue workers search for the black boxes at a plane crash site in Tengxian county, southwestern China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Tuesday, March 22, 2022.

WUZHOU, China (AP)—The search for clues into why a Chinese commercial jetliner dove suddenly and crashed into a mountain in southern China was suspended Wednesday as rain slickened the debris field and filled the red-dirt gash formed by the plane's fiery impact.

Earlier, searchers had used hand tools, drones and sniffer dogs under rainy conditions to comb the heavily forested slopes for the flight data and cockpit voice recorders, as well as any human remains. Crews also worked to pump water from the pit created when the plane hit the ground, but their efforts were suspended around midmorning because small landslides were possible on the steep, slick slopes.

Video clips posted by China's state media showed small pieces of the Boeing 737-800 plane scattered over the area. Mud-stained wallets, bank and identity cards have also been recovered. Each piece of debris has a number next to it, the larger ones marked off by police tape.

China Eastern Flight 5735 was carrying 123 passengers and nine crew from Kunming in Yunnan province to Guangzhou, an industrial center on China's southeastern coast, when it crashed Monday afternoon outside the city of Wuzhou in the Guangxi region. All 132 people on board are presumed killed.

Investigators say it is too early to speculate on the cause. The plane went into an unexplained dive an hour after departure and stopped transmitting data 96 seconds into the fall.

An air-traffic controller tried to contact the pilots several times after seeing the plane's altitude drop sharply, but got no reply, a grim-faced Zhu Tao, director of the Office of Aviation Safety at the Civil Aviation Authority of China, said at a Tuesday evening news conference.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China says military development of islands within its rights

BEIJING (AP)—China on Tuesday said it has the right to develop South China Sea islands as it sees fit in the wake of U.S. accusations that it has fully militarized at least three of several islands it built in the disputed waterway in violation of a previous commitment. China's deployment of "necessary national defense facilities on its own territory is a right entitled to every sovereign country and is in line with international law, which is beyond reproach," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin told reporters at a daily briefing. U.S. military activities in the area aimed to "stir up trouble and make provocations," Wang said. "That seriously threatens the sovereignty and security of coastal countries and undermines the order and navigation safety in the South China Sea." On Sunday, U.S. Indo-Pacific Commander Adm. John C. Aquilino said China had armed the islands with anti-ship and anti-aircraft missile systems, laser and jamming equipment, and fighter jets.

South Korea's COVID-19 deaths strain crematories, hospitals

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Health officials in South Korea have instructed crematories to burn more bodies per day and funeral homes to add more refrigerators to store the dead as families struggle with funeral arrangements amid a rise in COVID-19 deaths. The country has been dealing with a massive coronavirus outbreak driven by the fast-moving omicron variant, which has compromised a once robust pandemic response and is driving up hospitalizations and fatalities. Officials have already allowed the 60 crematories across country to burn for longer hours starting last week, which raised their combined capacity from around 1,000 to 1,400 cremations per day. But that hasn't been enough to meaningfully ease the backlog of bodies waiting to be cremated in the densely populated Seoul metropolitan area, which is home to half of South Korea's 52 million people and the center of its COVID-19 outbreak. The backlog has also trickled down to funeral homes at hospitals and other facilities, where families have struggled to make funeral arrangements because of the longer wait for cremations.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Ukraine says Russia seized relief workers in Mariupol convoy

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Ukrainian leaders accused Russia of seizing 15 rescue workers and drivers from a humanitarian convoy trying to get desperately needed food and other supplies into the bloodied port city of Mariupol, which also came under naval attack after weeks of air and land strikes. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy estimated that 100,000 civilians remained in Mariupol, scene of some of the war's worst devastation, as Russia presses a nearly month-old offensive by bombarding cities and towns. Those made it out described a shattered city. "They bombed us for the past 20 days," said 39-year-old Viktoria Totsen, who fled into Poland. "During the last five days, the planes were flying over us every five seconds and dropped bombs everywhere—on residential buildings, kindergartens, art schools, everywhere." Zelenskyy, speaking late Tuesday in his nightly video address to his nation, accused Russian forces of blocking the aid convoy despite agreeing to the route ahead of time.

9 million children to be vaccinated against polio in Africa

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP)—A drive to vaccinate more than 9 million children against polio has been launched this week in four countries in southern and eastern Africa after an outbreak was confirmed in Malawi. The urgent vaccination campaign has started in Malawi where drops of the inoculation are being placed in the mouths of children across the country, including in the capital, Lilongwe, and the country's largest city, Blantyre. The vaccination campaign will be expanded on Thursday to include the neighboring countries of Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia, according to UNICEF which is working with the governments and other partners. Three more rounds of vaccinations will follow in the coming months with a goal of reaching more than 20 million children. "This is the first case of wild polio detected in Africa for more than five years and UNICEF is working closely with governments and partners to do everything possible to stop the virus in its tracks," says Mohamed M. Fall, UNICEF Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa.

'No mercy': Mariupol bombing compared to Nazi war crimes

MEDYKA, Poland (AP)—The president of Poland compared Russia's attacks on Ukraine to Nazi forces during World War II, saying Tuesday that besieged Mariupol looks like Warsaw in 1944 after the Germans bombed houses and killed civilians "with no mercy at all." President Andrzej Duda, who will host President Joe Biden later this week in a Warsaw rebuilt from the ashes of that war, spoke as traumatized people bearing witness to the horrors inflicted on Ukraine by Russian forces continued to flee. They arrived by the thousands in Poland and other neighboring nations. The United Nations refugee agency announced a staggering milestone Tuesday: More than 3.5 million refugees have now left the country. Among them was Viktoria Totsen, a 39-year-old from Mariupol who entered Poland as part of an exodus that has become Europe's worst refugee crisis since World War II. She described how the bombing by Russian planes had become incessant, prompting her to flee with her two daughters.

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

†Sr. Immaculata Ochoa-Retana, MMB

December 11, 1929 – March 21, 2022

The Mercedarian Sisters would like to share with all the people of Saipan the passing over to eternal life of our Sr. Immaculata (Macu) Ochoa-Retana on March 21, 2022 at the age of 92.

Sr. Macu first arrived to Saipan in 1967 and except for several years of missioning to Guam, Palau and the USA, spent most of her missionary life here in Saipan, teaching at Mt. Carmel School, instructing the young sisters in formation and being of service with the senior sisters.

She is survived by all of her MMB Sisters of the Institute of the Mercedarian Missionaries of Berriz throughout the world, as well as three sisters of her family of origin in Spain: Augustina, Encarnacion and Maria Victoria, their children and grandchildren.

We would invite you to pray with us for her eternal rest, especially on Friday, March 25, The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord at Maturana in Upper Navy Hill. The viewing on that day will be from 8-10 AM, followed by the Eucharistic Celebration of Christian Burial at 10:30 AM, with final internment at the Maturana Cemetery.

Being the Season of Lent, we kindly request no flowers, only your remembrance in prayer.

Environment

Global air pollution levels spiked in 2021 after a drop during 2020 lockdowns

By THERESA BRAINE
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

The Amazon rainforest is emitting more carbon dioxide than it absorbs, according to a new pollution report—the opposite of what is supposed to happen.

Elsewhere in the world, air pollution levels spiked in 2021 after dropping in 2020 due to COVID-related lockdowns, according to the annual World Air Quality Report released by pollution tracking company IQAir.

Analyzing measurements from air monitoring stations in 6,475 cities around the world, IQAir found that just 3% of cities—and not a single country overall—had met the annual air quality guidelines spelled out by the World Health Organization to protect public health.

Of the cities analyzed, the average air quality of just 222 of them met the WHO's standard, including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as the French territory of New Caledonia.

This was the first analysis based on the WHO's new recommendations, released in September 2021, that cut the recommended allowable amount of fine particulate pollution—the kind that is small enough to be transported from the lungs to the bloodstream along with oxygen—in half.

Fine particle pollution is a major contributing factor in conditions and ailments including asthma, stroke and diseases of the heart and lung as is a factor in millions of deaths each year, IQAir noted.

While many cities and countries in Asia were among the most polluted, China's overall air quality continued to improve during 2021, the researchers said. Several countries had many times the recommended amount of particulate pollution, the report said.

In Brazil, deforestation is at a 15-year high, the report noted – bad news for the climate-regulating rainforest.

"Due to deforestation for agricultural and industrial purposes, wildfires in the Amazon have resulted in the world's largest rainforest now emitting more CO2 than it absorbs," IQAir said in its report.

"This report underscores the need for governments around the world to help reduce global air pollution," IQAir North America CEO Glory Dolphin Hammes told CNN, adding that fine particulate matter "kills far too many people every year, and governments need to set more stringent air quality national standards and explore better foreign policies that promote better air quality."

Hammes hoped it would be viewed as a call to action.

"This report underscores just how much work remains to be done to ensure that everyone has safe, clean and healthy air to breathe," Hammes said in the researchers' statement. "The time for action is now."

Amplifying youth voices for *climate change*

By IVA MAURIN
CORRESPONDENT

Early this March, at the 43rd Annual Research Conference held by the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences of the University of Guam, Diana Mallanao shared her study on UOG students' perspectives and knowledge on climate change, and how these affect their environmental awareness and decisions.

In the study, which involved around 30 students, Mallanao found that being knowledgeable about climate change and believing it is real is not sufficient to increase awareness and decisions that are for the environment. This is attributed to two factors—people are not being directly or severely affected yet by climate change or that "they just do not care enough to do better."

Talking about climate change solutions is almost a matter of choosing "convenience over sustainability," which Mallanao hopes everyone can work on eliminating as a habit. The student also recommended that there be community effort—for local businesses to implement eco-friendly practices such as removing the use of single-use plastics, and for the government to implement policies that could boost Guam's environmental awareness.

Climate change is not just a concern for the youth in Guam, but also here in the CNMI.

The back-to-back super typhoons Mangkhut and Yutu that hit the island have left a mark in the community, especially the youth, as they bore witness to their very own homes and schools being destroyed. And perhaps this is why the youth here are not just aware but are also active in environmental campaigns and events.

ISLAND KEEPERS CNMI
Over a hundred volunteers picked up a thousand pounds of trash during the cleanup organized by community group Island Keepers CNMI last weekend at the Old Man by the Sea.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO]
2021 Miss Northern Marianas Earth Crystal Fiona Rio talks about climate change, and how starting small—doing eco-friendly practices at home, can help a lot.

"Every year, our typhoons get stronger because of climate change," Northern Marianas College student Brent Michael Espinosa told Saipan Tribune as he recalled the super typhoons that had hit the island.

"Global warming, the main cause of climate change, causes our typhoons to get stronger. This, in turn, causes our islands to be that much more destroyed once the typhoon hits, for example, with Typhoon Yutu in 2018. It was the strongest typhoon ever which scientists most attribute to climate change—the world just keeps getting warmer and warmer."

Espinosa, who was volunteering at a beach cleanup at the time of the interview, also said that beaches and reefs are primarily affected by climate change.

While the NMC student does not think that there is a way to truly reverse all that has been happening because of climate change, he believes that its effects can be slowly mitigated.

"I think we can at least slow that down and stop it at the point where we're at right now—by doing what we're doing, environmental awareness, doing cleanups, being vigilant about where we throw our trash, be aware of how we care for our island because we live here. It is for us."

2021 Miss NMI Earth Crystal Fiona Rio, also an NMC student, had a timely recommendation, especially with the rising gas prices. "For us to better take care of our environment, regarding climate change, I think it will be best to focus more on our fossil fuel usages. Especially now that gas [prices have] gone up, I believe people will be more aware of how much gas they're using, and also with how much the electricity they're using as well."

The burning of fossil fuels—basically to produce energy, generate electricity, and to power engines—are known to have radically increased the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, making the Earth warmer and warmer.

"I think it really would really help if they start small at home—turning off the lights and unplugging things that aren't being used; using the car les—if it's just a short trip, you can either carpool or work around with friends or other people that you know to go to different places, and if not, then public transportation," Rio added.

The NMI Miss Earth also expressed hopes for the government to implement more public transit systems to benefit both locals and tourists, for all to be able to efficiently go to different places without having to drive or waste gas getting lost around the island.

Islandwide cleanup

Over the weekend, 123 volunteers joined forces, in an answer to community group Island Keeper CNMI's call to clean up the Old Man by the Sea. Collectively, they picked up 1,000 lbs of trash, including a 200-lb tire, and 187 lbs of micro-plastic.

Volunteerism does not stop there as it is time, yet again, to prepare for the islandwide cleanup! In celebration of Environmental Awareness Month of April, the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality is inviting everyone to participate on this year's islandwide cleanup, happening on Friday, April 22, from 3:30pm to 4:30pm, and on Saturday, April 23, from 8am to 10am.

"Defend our Planet/Difendi i tano'ta/Atelághi faluwasch" and volunteer! Government agencies, schools, and private organizations are encouraged to participate. BECQ will be providing trash bags, gloves, drinking water, and hauling services.

To volunteer and identify the area you want to clean up—or to learn more, email Tom Pangelinan (tom.pangelinan@becq.gov.mp) or Edward S. Dela Cruz (edward.delacruz@becq.gov.mp), or call (670) 664-8500.

Life & Style

Gold ring stolen from St. Nicholas statue in Italian church

ROME (AP)—A thief broke into the Basilica of St. Nicholas in the southern city of Bari overnight, stealing a gold ring from a finger of a statue of the saint, who is venerated by Catholic and Orthodox Christians and whose remains attract many pilgrims from Russia to the Italian church, officials said on Tuesday.

Corriere della Sera daily quoted police in Bari as saying video surveillance cameras showed a hooded and masked man breaking open a metal gate to gain entrance to the basilica before dawn on Tuesday. Church officials say the thief stole money left by faithful in a collection box and opened, without damaging anything, a glass case that displays a tall statue depicting the saint.

Besides the ring, the thief made off with a book, decorated with silver, that the statue of the saint held in one hand, authorities said.

Nicholas is much revered in Bari, an Adriatic port city, and his popularity is considered a bridge between West and East.

"With this gesture, the raw nerves of the faithful and culture of Bari have been touched,'' Bari Archbishop Giuseppe Satriano told TV2000, an Italian Catholic television station. He contended that the stolen objects would be hard to sell since they are well-known and catalogued.

The theft is a "sacrilege, an obscene act,'' said Bari Mayor Antonio Decaro.

The basilica is a popular pilgrimage destination, especially for visitors from Russia. In 2003, a statue of the saint was erected outside the church as a gift from Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Born in Turkey in the 3rd century, Nicholas is the patron saint of sailors. As a young man, Nicholas boarded a ship to journey to the Holy Land, and on the way back, the ship was threatened by a big storm, according to the Vatican. After he prayed, the waves died down. Sailors from Bari eventually acquired his remains and brought them to the southern Italian city in 1087, where they were later buried in a crypt of a new church.

Ed Sheeran awaits verdict over copyright court battle

An 11-day trial over the copyright of Ed Sheeran's hit song "Shape of You" concluded in London on Tuesday, with the judge saying he would take some time to consider his ruling.

The British pop star and his co-writers, Snow Patrol's John McDaid and producer Steven McCutcheon, deny accusations that the 2017 song copies part of a 2015 song called "Oh Why" by Sami Chokri, who performs under the name Sami Switch.

Lawyer Andrew Sutcliffe, representing the "Oh Why" co-writers, argued there was an "indisputable similarity between the works" and suggested the chances of two songs that "correlate" appearing within months of each other was "minutely small."

The lawyer claimed that Sheeran had "Oh Why" "consciously or unconsciously in his head" when "Shape of You" was written in 2016. He also alleged that Sheeran, who attended the hearing throughout, was dishonest and evasive in giving evidence to the trial.

Sheeran and his co-writers say they have disclosed material to the trial and do not remember hearing "Oh Why" before the court case.

Justice Antony Zacaroli said Tuesday he would deliver his judgment "as soon as I can."

"Shape of You" was the biggest selling song in the U.K. in 2017. ***(AP)***

Artifacts seized from U.S. billionaire returned to Israel

NEW YORK (AP)—Prosecutors in New York announced the repatriation Tuesday of $5 million worth of looted antiquities seized from billionaire hedge fund manager Michael Steinhardt to Israel, where Steinhardt is well known as a patron of cultural institutions.

The 39 items being returned to Israel include two gold masks dating from about 5000 B.C. that are valued at $500,000 and a set of three death masks that date from 6000 to 7000 B.C. and are worth a total of $650,000, Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg said.

"These rare and beautiful artifacts, which are thousands of years old, have been kept from the public because of illegal looting and trafficking," Bragg said. "My office is proud to once again return historic antiquities to where they rightfully belong."

The objects that authorities say were illegally acquired in Israel are part of $70 million worth of stolen antiquities that Steinhardt agreed to turn over in December in a deal to avoid prosecution.

(AP PHOTO/RICHARD DREW)

Dr. Etan Klein, Deputy Director of the Theft Prevention Unit, of Israel's Antiquities Authority, looks over looted antiquities worth $5-million, seized from billionaire hedge fund manager Michael Steinhardt, displayed in the offices of the Manhattan District Attorney, in New York, Tuesday, March 22, 2022. .

Under the agreement, Steinhardt is permanently barred from acquiring antiquities. Items seized from Steinhardt have previously been returned to authorities in Greece and Jordan.

A message seeking comment on Tuesday's announcement was sent to an attorney for Steinhardt. His attorneys have said previously that the dealers from whom Steinhardt bought antiquities represented to him that they held lawful title to the artifacts.

Of the 39 objects that are to be repatriated to Israel, 28 were turned over to Israeli authorities Tuesday. Three were already on display at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, and eight have not yet been located but will be returned as soon as they are found, the district attorney's office said. Several of the artifacts returned to Israel were looted from the occupied West Bank.

Additionally, a 3,000-year-old spoon that was used to ladle incense onto fires is being held for Palestinian authorities, prosecutors said.

Eitan Klein, deputy director of the theft prevention unit of the Israel Antiquities Authority, said the antiquities "are priceless for the state of Israel and its people. They symbolize our rich and vast cultural heritage. Now, they are being returned to their rightful owners."

Beyoncé, Billie Eilish to sing nominated songs at Oscars

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Beyoncé, Billie Eilish and other nominees for best original song will perform at Sunday's Oscars, the show's producers announced Tuesday.

Beyoncé will perform her nominated song "Be Alive" from "King Richard," and Eilish and her brother and co-writer Finneas will perform "No Time To Die" from the James Bond film of the same name.

Sebastián Yatra will perform "Dos Oruguitas," the nominated song from "Encanto" written by Lin-Manuel Miranda.

Reba McEntire will sing writer Diane Warren's "Somehow You Do" from the film "Four Good Days."

Van Morrison, who wrote and sings the nominated song "Down to Joy" from "Belfast," will not be able to make the show because of his touring schedule. The song will not be performed.

The original song Academy Award goes to the songwriter, not the artist who performs it, and whoever wins this year will get their first Oscar.

That includes Beyoncé, a 28-time Grammy winner, who co-wrote "Be Alive" with Dixson.

Warren was nominated this year for the 13th time, but is still seeking her first win.

Miranda will join the elite "EGOT" club of winners of an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony should "Dos Oruguitas" win. The song was tapped as the Oscar submission from "Encanto" before another Miranda-penned song from the Disney movie, "We Don't Talk About Bruno," became a runaway hit.

The Oscars are returning to Hollywood's Dolby Theatre after the pandemic sent the show to Union Station for a smaller, more intimate ceremony last year.

Fiance's aversion to pets plants small seed of doubt

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I have gotten engaged and we are being married in a year or so. Everything about him is wonderful, and I'm excited to share my life with him -- except for one worry. I have been an animal lover my entire life. After living with him this past year with my two cats, I have slowly come to the realization that he absolutely loathes the idea of pets.

Besides my inability to understand this (he has never had a bad past experience with an animal), it makes me question his compassion (or lack thereof) for all things living. Should this be a red flag, worthy of reconsidering our engagement?

CRITTER LOVER IN NEW ENGLAND

DEAR LOVER: Perhaps. Not everyone is an animal lover, but it's usually because they haven't had pets or been exposed to them. This does not mean they lack compassion for all things living. It simply means they haven't interacted with different species.

However, you say your fiance absolutely "LOATHES" pets. If you plan to have animals in your household in the future, you MUST have some serious discussions about it and lay your cards on the table. If you don't deal with this NOW, it could be a deal-breaker in the future.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: As a frequent traveler, there is the inevitability of being seated near children on airplanes. I can't blame kids for becoming a little bit fussy. Often, they seem miserably bored. My sad observation is their parents seem to be unprepared to engage their kids.

When I traveled by plane with my children, I always planned ahead. I packed plenty of healthy snacks, a few surprise treats and games, books and art supplies to engage them. I also talked to them in advance about the trip, the plane, who we were going to visit and what we were going to do after we arrived. Strangers would thank me at the end of the flight for my children's good behavior.

Time on a plane is a perfect opportunity to forgo the hustle and bustle of a typical day. Use the downtime to have fun and enjoy special bonding time with your kids and, hopefully, give the other passengers a break.

MILE-HIGH PLAY TIME

DEAR MILE-HIGH: I'm printing your intelligent suggestions in the hope that as families travel in the coming months, they will be taken to heart. I'm not doing this for the benefit of airline passengers, but rather the comfort of the children involved. Thank you for sharing your thoughts with my readers and me. You may not be an angel, but today you have earned your "wings."

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I find myself depressed 90% of the time because I'm afraid of death. Do you think LGBTQ individuals are doomed after death? Will we go to hell? I'm gay and I worry every day about it. Please settle my nerves.

STRESSED-OUT IN GEORGIA

DEAR STRESSED-OUT: I'm glad you asked. Please stop worrying, because you are making your own hell right here on Earth. LGBTQ individuals are no more "doomed" after death than are straight people. The misguided individual who planted that idea in your head deserves that fate, not you.

DEAR ABBY

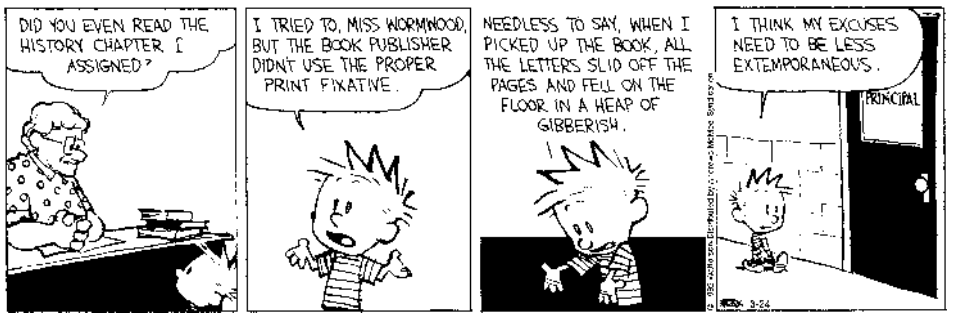
By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

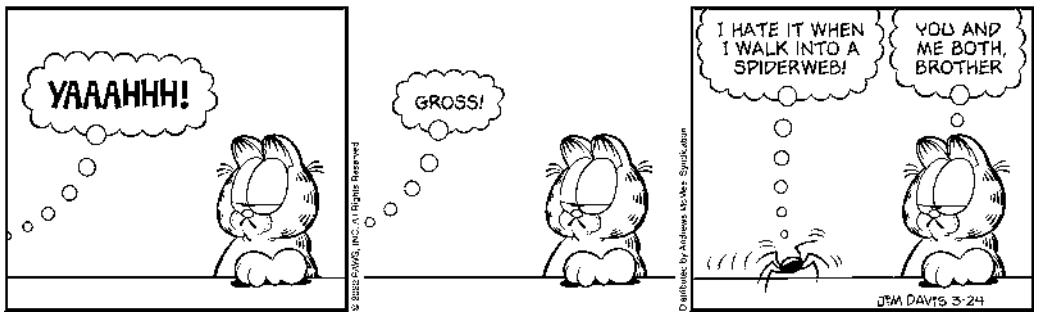
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


DID YOU EVEN READ THE HISTORY CHAPTER I ASSIGNED?
I TRIED TO, MISS WORMWOOD, BUT THE BOOK PUBLISHER DIDN'T USE THE PROPER PRINT FIXATIVE.
NEEDLESS TO SAY, WHEN I PICKED UP THE BOOK, ALL THE LETTERS SLID OFF THE PAGES AND FELL ON THE FLOOR IN A HEAP OF GIBBERISH.
I THINK MY EXCUSES NEED TO BE LESS EXTEMPORANEOUS.
PRINCIPAL

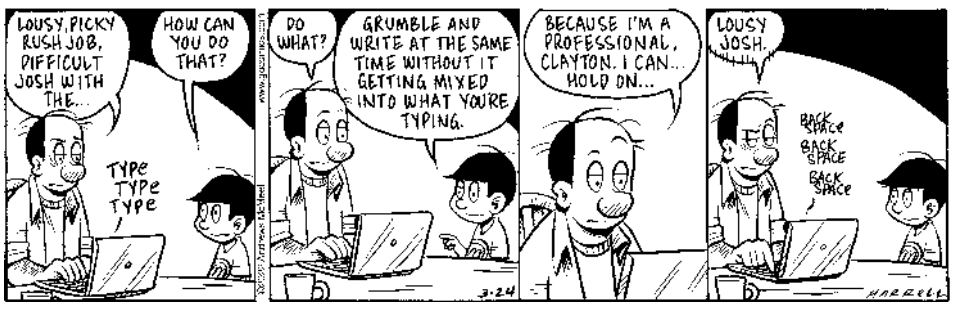
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


LOUSY, PICKY RUSH JOB, DIFFICULT JOSH WITH THE...
HOW CAN YOU DO THAT?
TYPE TYPE TYPE
DO WHAT?
GRUMBLE AND WRITE AT THE SAME TIME WITHOUT IT GETTING MIXED INTO WHAT YOU'RE TYPING.
BECAUSE I'M A PROFESSIONAL, CLAYTON. I CAN.. HOLD ON...
LOUSY JOSH.
BACK SPACE
BACK SPACE
BACK SPACE
3-24
HARRELL

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

YOU'LL FIND I WAS VERY THOROUGH IN DOCUMENTING MY COMPLETE WORK HISTORY ON THE APPLICATION.
" ENTERTAINMENT MANAGER SPECIALIZING IN SUBURBAN INFRASTRUCTURE - 9 YEARS OLD"
MY DAD ONCE GAVE ME A QUARTER TO GO PLAY IN THE STREET.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

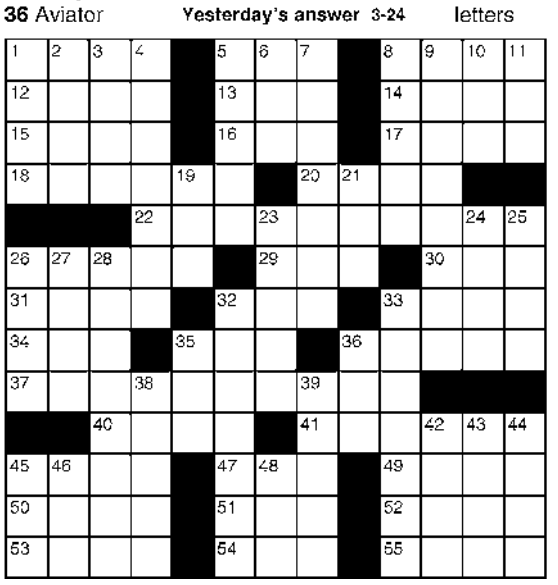
1 Scrabble piece
5 Possesses
8 Vipers
12 Counterfeit
13 Literary rep
14 Turned blue?
15 Corn recipe
16 Menagerie
17 Hotel chain
18 Meager
20 Italian cheese, for short
22 "The Breakfast Club" actress
26 Cellist Casals
29 Attorneys' org.
30 Cravat
31 Incursion
32 Devious
33 Killer whale
34 Work unit
35 Six, in Sicily
36 Aviator
37 "Dam right!"
40 Spanish greeting
41 Knight suits
45 Benefit
47 Make lace
49 Conspiracy
50 Spumante source
51 — out a living
52 Not busy
53 Arizona city
54 Quarterback Marino
55 Cartoon frames

DOWN

1 Recipe amts.
2 Denny's rival
3 Singer — Del Rey
4 Green gem
5 Greenish brown
6 Past
7 Pays a visit
8 Worship
9 Feature of most crosswords
10 Stock holder
11 Reagan Era "Star Wars" prog.
19 — -mo
21 "Eureka!"
23 New Haven collegian
24 Vegas cubes
25 Wine label datum
26 Quarry
27 Rhine feeder
28 Honchos
32 Drugged
33 — Games
35 NBC sketch show
36 New Deal pres.
38 Ancient Greek region
39 Devoured
42 Shoppe description
43 Bakery buy
44 Fr. holy women
45 "Kapow!"
46 Sugar suffix
48 Alias letters

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 3-24



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Peyton Manning, 46; Alyson Hannigan, 48; Jim Parsons, 49; David Suzuki, 86.

Happy Birthday: A disciplined attitude will help you overcome emotional mistakes. Refuse to get caught up in the moment. Educate yourself before you head down a path that presents uncertainty and confusion. Live with what you've got until you are sure you can successfully transform your dreams into reality. Eliminate doubt before you proceed. Self-improvement and personal growth are encouraged. Your numbers are 3, 16, 20, 24, 31, 39, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Take a trip down memory lane before you jump into something that has blurred your vision. Look at the odds, and consider how much you want something before you become entangled in a situation with underlying problems. Focus on personal growth. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Assess situations. Don't let emotions dictate what you do. Think matters through, and put your energy into doing what's best for everyone. Don't rely on people who are uncertain or unpredictable. Don't take a risk, and leave nothing to chance. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* False impressions will taint information. Get the facts before you make a move that can affect your position or reputation. Be aware of regulations and contracts before you make a move that can influence your lifestyle. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Be careful how you interpret someone's words or gestures. Agreeing to something for the wrong reason or without doing your due diligence will lead to regret. Look out for your interests and your physical and emotional well-being. Choose your associates wisely. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* An unexpected situation will push you to rethink your strategy. Get out and observe the trends that are happening, and you'll get a hint of how to use your skills to get ahead. Physically take charge of the way your life unfolds. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* More action is required and so is less complaining. Look over your financial or contractual position and implement an adjustment before it's too late. Stay ahead of the competition. Put your emotions on the back burner and your intelligence to work for you. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Peddle what you have to offer. Networking, promoting and setting up meetings will require finesse if you plan to attract attention. Leave nothing to chance; preparation and presentation are critical if you want to win a spot at the table. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Consider your conditions, what's required to make a suitable change. Refuse to let anyone outmaneuver you by using force or unrealistic pretenses. Recognize who your friends are, and distance yourself from anyone who is unpredictable. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Learn from the experience, and trust firsthand information only. Pay attention to detail and how you present how you look and what you do. Your actions will make a statement that reveals your reliability. Stick to what works best for you. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Don't spread unverified information. A money matter will have emotional implications if you offer a false impression. An unexpected change someone makes will turn out to be good. Bide your time, stick to the truth, and sit back and watch. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Draw on those who have the experience to help you. Don't rely on big talkers or someone who has an emotional hold on you. Put your energy into the projects you enjoy and do well, and turn it into something tangible. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Listen to what others say. Find out the rules and regulations before you decide to get involved in something that can affect your position or status. Take the safe route by protecting your money and health. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are conscientious, engaging and reliable. You are determined and indulgent.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			9			3	
	8				6		7
2				7		4	
			5		8		
9		2		1			3
	5		6				
	7	3				9	
2		9			1		
	8			4			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	5	9	7	3	8	2	4	1
2	4	8	5	6	1	9	7	3
7	1	3	9	2	4	5	6	8
1	3	2	6	7	9	4	8	5
5	9	4	8	1	3	7	2	6
8	6	7	4	5	2	3	1	9
3	7	1	2	8	5	6	9	4
9	2	5	1	4	6	8	3	7
4	8	6	3	9	7	1	5	2

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

NORTH AMERICAN FOOD CHAINS Solution: 9 letters

R	S	A	P	P	L	E	B	E	E	S	H	A	K	E
C	E	E	S	N	O	T	R	O	H	M	I	T	T	T
S	H	G	L	R	C	A	E	S	A	R	S	R	S	U
W	D	I	R	G	O	P	N	C	I	N	O	S	S	E
E	I	A	P	U	N	I	A	P	A	P	M	Y	E	S
N	B	N	N	O	B	A	N	N	I	C	U	C	R	D
S	E	H	G	B	T	T	P	C	E	G	D	E	P	A
E	L	A	O	S	Y	L	A	S	K	R	K	O	X	Y
N	L	R	N	O	T	L	E	F	R	C	A	Q	E	A
S	A	D	G	B	O	O	S	T	E	R	U	B	Y	B
K	S	E	F	D	L	L	P	H	M	E	V	I	F	A
E	N	E	R	L	L	O	C	A	E	C	I	U	J	S
B	H	S	I	I	O	R	D	N	N	S	G	N	I	K
O	O	K	E	W	P	E	E	S	Y	D	N	E	W	I
R	J	E	S	E	E	H	C	E	G	N	A	R	O	N

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Applebee's, Baskin, Booster, Caesars, Checkers, Cheese, Chipotle, Cinnabon, DiBella's, Express, Fat Burger, Five, Fries, Guys, Hardee's, Hero, John's, Juice, Kewpee, King, Kreme, Loco, Orange, Panda, Panera, Papa, Pollo, Queen, Robbins, Robeks, Ruby, Sbarro, Shake, Sonic, Spangles, Swenson's, Tim Hortons, Tropical, Tuesday, Wendy's, Wild, Wingstop, Yogen

Yesterday's Answer: Dashing

The NEW **Treasuries 46 and 47** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Antetokounmpo returns, Bucks roll to win over Bulls

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Giannis Antetokounmpo had 25 points and 17 rebounds in his return to action and the Milwaukee Bucks extended their recent mastery of the Chicago Bulls with a 126-98 blowout on Tuesday night.

Antetokounmpo missed the Bucks' 138-119 loss at Minnesota on Saturday due to a sore right knee. Milwaukee played without All-Star forward Khris Middleton, who was dealing with a sore left wrist.

"He took a fall in the Minnesota game, and it was pretty sore and stiff, so we've had it looked at," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said before the game. "We feel like it's short term, but we'll see how he feels the next day or two."

Jrue Holiday had a game-high 27 points to go along with seven assists and no turnovers as the Bucks won for the 15th time in their last 16 meetings with the Bulls, including all three matchups this season. Chicago's lone win during that stretch came in the 2019-20 regular-season finale, when the Bucks rested their starters because they were locked into the East's No. 3 playoff seed.

"Jrue was being Jrue," Antetokounmpo said. "Jrue was being aggressive, making good decisions, getting downhill, getting everybody involved, guarding Zach (LaVine). Everybody was doing their job. Obviously we knew that Khris wasn't plaXying, and Khris is a big part of our team and what we do here, but at the end of the day, even with the team that we have, we're a great team."

Brook Lopez had 10 points and six rebounds in 24 minutes for Milwaukee after making his first start since the season opener. The 7-footer had come off the bench for the Bucks' last three games after missing 67 due to a back injury that required surgery.

The Bucks shot 61% from the floor and had seven players score in double figures. The Bulls shot just 42.4%.

"Shots we would want them to take, they made," Bulls coach Billy Donovan said. "It was a night where they really, really had it going. Credit to them. And it was a night we just didn't shoot the ball particularly well."

Nikola Vucevic had 22 points for the Bulls, who opened a five-game trip one night after a 113-99 victory over the Toronto Raptors. DeMar DeRozan and LaVine added 21 points each as the Bulls lost for the ninth time in 12 games.

AP

Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo drives past Chicago Bulls' Javonte Green during the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, March 22, 2022, in Milwaukee.

Magic 94, Warriors 90

In Orlando, Fla., Franz Wagner made three free throws with 12.2 seconds left and dunked on an inbounds play for the final points, leading Orlando over Golden State.

Mo Bamba's 3-pointer with 52 seconds left gave the Magic an 89-88 lead. Wendell Carter Jr. led Orlando with 19 points and Wagner had 18.

With the Warriors' loss, the NBA-leading Phoenix Suns (58-14) clinched first place in the Pacific Division.

Jordan Poole scored 26 points for the Warriors, who shot 40% for the game and committed seven turnovers in the fourth quarter on the way to their third straight loss. Klay Thompson added 15 and Otto Porter Jr. had 14 points and 15 rebounds.

Nuggets 127, Clippers115

In Denver, Nikola Jokic bounced back from a rare poor shooting performance, scoring 30 points to lead Denver over Los Angeles.

The Nuggets had dropped four of six, including a 124-104 home loss to the Celtics on Sunday night in which Jokic missed 15 shots.

Against the Clippers, he was 9 of 15 from the floor — he also had two baskets that were waived off — and sank 12 of 13 free throws. He also pulled down a game-best 14 rebounds.

The Clippers dropped their fourth straight. They have lost seven of nine overall.

Terance Mann led the Clippers with 24 points.

Hawks 117, Knicks 111

In New York, Trae Young had 45 points and eight assists in his first game at Madison Square Garden since last season's playoffs, leading a late surge that sent Atlanta past New York.

Picking up right where he left off last spring, Young made seven 3-pointers, including one that tied the game at 105 with 2:54 to play. He then set up Bogdan Bogdanovic for a go-ahead 3 and followed another by De'Andre Hunter by leaving Taj Gibson behind off the dribble and knocking down a jumper to cap an 11-0 spurt and make it 113-105 with 1:04 left.

Bogdanovic added a season-high 32 points for the Hawks, who dropped the Knicks six games behind them for 10th place in the Eastern Conference, the final spot in the play-in field.

RJ Barrett had 30 points and 13 rebounds for the Knicks, who fell to 30-42 to clinch their eighth losing season in the last nine. The only winning record was when they went 41-31 last season to earn the No. 4 seed in the East.

The Hawks then beat them in five games in the first round of the playoffs. Young was the star in his first postseason series, ignoring the profane taunts from New York fans and getting the last word when he bowed to the crowd from near midcourt late in Game 5.

Alec Burks had 21 points for the Knicks, who played without Julius Randle because of a sore right quadriceps tendon. They led by 10 early in the fourth, but the game changed when Young re-entered with 7:45 remaining.

Ash Barty retires from tennis at age 25; won 3 Grand Slams

BRISBANE, Australia (AP)—Ash Barty surprisingly retired from tennis at age 25 while ranked No. 1 and less than two months after winning the Australian Open for her third Grand Slam singles title.

"I just know at the moment, in my heart, for me as a person, this is right," Barty said, her voice shaky at times, during a six-minute video posted on her Instagram account Wednesday in Australia.

Saying it was time to "chase other dreams," Barty, who announced her engagement to trainee golf professional Garry Kissick in November, said she no longer feels compelled to do what she knows is required to be the best she can be at tennis.

"It's the first time I've actually said it out loud and, yeah, it's hard to say," Barty said during an informal interview with her former doubles partner, Casey Dellacqua. "I don't have the physical drive, the emotional want and everything it takes to challenge yourself at the very top level any more. I am spent."

This is not the first time Barty walked away from tennis: She was the Wimbledon junior champion at age 15 in 2011, presaging a promising professional career, but left the tour entirely for nearly two years in 2014 because of burnout, overwhelmed by the pressure and travel required.

She played professional cricket back home in Australia, then eventually picked up a racket once again and returned to her other sport.

Barty went on to win singles major championships on three different surfaces — on clay at the 2019 French Open, on grass at Wimbledon last year and on the hard courts of Melbourne Park in January, becoming the first Australian player in 44 years to triumph at the nation's Grand Slam tournament.

But she hasn't played a tournament since being presented with her Australian Open trophy by seven-time Grand Slam singles champion Evonne Goolagong Cawley, her mentor and Indigenous and Australian tennis icon, after a straight-sets final victory over Danielle Collins.

"I am so supportive of Ash that she does what makes her happy," Goolagong Cawley told The Associated Press on Wednesday. "I can't wait to see what happens in the next chapter of Ash's life, and what helps her achieve her dreams."

Barty won 15 tour-level titles in singles and another 12 in doubles since first turning pro in 2010. She spent 121 weeks at No. 1 in the rankings, including the last 114 in a row.

Her announcement was all the more stunning from an on-court perspective given her recent run of success: Barty had won 25 of her last 26 matches and three of her past four events.

Only one other woman has walked away from the sport while atop the WTA rankings: Justine Henin was No. 1 when she retired in May 2008.

In a statement released by the WTA, CEO Steve Simon called Barty "the ultimate competitor" and said she "has always led by example through the unwavering professionalism and sportsmanship she brought to every match."

"We will miss her," Simon said.

During her 21-month sabbatical from tennis as a teen, Barty played cricket with the Brisbane Heat of the Women's Big Bash League. She returned to tennis in May 2016, playing a $50,000 ITF event in Eastbourne.

One year later, she was ranked No. 88; by the end of 2017, Barty was an established member of the top 20.

"I know I've done this before," Barty said with a laugh in the retirement video, "but in a very different feeling. I'm so grateful to everything that tennis has given me. It's given me all of my dreams, plus more, but I know that the time is right now for me to step away and chase other dreams and to, yeah, put the rackets down."

A semifinal loss to Petra Kvitova in Doha in February was the last match she played in 2020; Barty stayed home in Australia for the balance of the season when the global pandemic emerged.

After six months on the road in 2021 and after winning five titles, including at Wimbledon, Barty ended her season abruptly after a loss to Shelby Rogers at the U.S. Open.

"Wimbledon last year changed a lot for me as a person and for me as an athlete," Barty said. "When you work so hard your whole life for one goal — to be able to win Wimbledon, which was my dream, the one true dream that I wanted in tennis, that really changed my perspective."

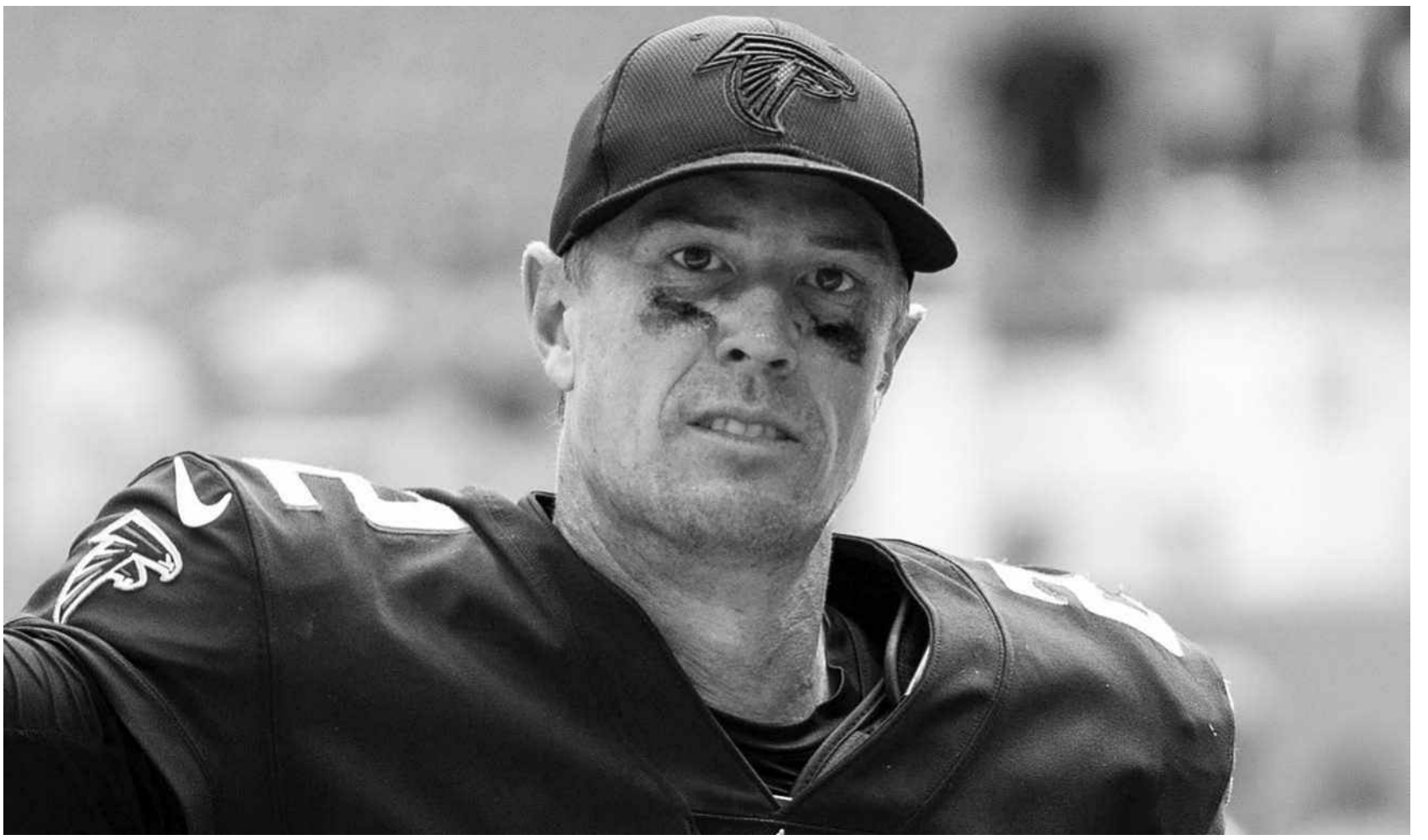
She described what she termed a "gut feeling" after Wimbledon about maybe being ready to move on, but she also described herself then as not "quite fulfilled." Her victory at the Australian Open satisfied another gap, and Barty said she was completely aware that "my happiness wasn't dependent on the results."

Barty was one of the most popular players on tour, and many praised her in retirement on Wednesday.

"Ash, what can I say, you know I have tears right?" tweeted Simona Halep. "My friend, I will miss you on tour. You were different, and special, and we shared some amazing moments . . . Be happy and enjoy your life to the max."

Madision Keys posted: "An incredible tennis player but more importantly one of the nicest people on tour."

Blockbuster: Colts get QB Matt Ryan in trade with Falcons



Atlanta Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan (2) leaves the field after an NFL football game against the Miami Dolphins, Sunday Oct 24, 2021, in Miami Gardens, Fla. AP

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)— The Indianapolis Colts may have found another short-term answer at quarterback by trading for Matt Ryan.

How much longer the soon-to-be 37-year-old, four-time Pro Bowler sticks around isn't clear.

On Monday, Indy acquired the 2016 NFL MVP from Atlanta for a third-round pick in this year's draft (No. 82 overall).

The Falcons wasted no time finding Ryan's possible replacement — announcing they'd signed free agent Marcus Mariota to a two-year contract.

For Indy, the deal completes a two-week search for a successor to Carson Wentz, who was traded to the Washington Commanders after just one season with the Colts.

For Indianapolis general manager Chris Ballard, it's also the latest attempt to plug a hole created by Andrew Luck's surprise retirement at age 29 just before the start of the 2018 season.

"Matt's leadership and skill set will complement our roster's growth and success," Ballard said. "He's long been a great ambassador for the NFL and the Atlanta Falcons, and we're excited he can continue his accomplished career in Indianapolis." For the Falcons, it was the end of an era.

Ryan had started all but three games for the team since he was drafted No. 3 overall in 2008, leading Atlanta to only the second Super Bowl appearance in franchise history.

His fate was effectively sealed when the Falcons made an ill-fated bid for Deshaun Watson as their new quarterback.

"Matt Ryan has been the epitome of a franchise quarterback," team owner Arthur Blank said. "It is difficult to overstate what he has meant to me personally, our organization, his teammates and our fans."

But the Falcons decided to move on with a major rebuilding job that was only made more difficult by Ryan's onerous contract, which was restructured multiple times in recent years as the team kept pushing a difficult decision down the road without drafting a possible successor.

The Falcons will carry a roughly $40 million cap charge in dead money this season, while Ryan's salary cap hit for the Colts is a reported $23.75 million in 2022, rising to $28 million if he's still on the team next year.

"This business is not without its difficult decisions," Blank said in a statement. "While this is one of the most difficult decisions we have faced as a club, we feel it is in the best long-term interests of both the Atlanta Falcons and Matt Ryan."

Ryan will become the sixth quarterback to start in Week 1 for the Colts in six years, adding his name to a list that already is composed of Scott Tolzien, Luck, Jacoby Brissett, Philip Rivers and Wentz.

He joins a franchise in which vice chairman Bill Polian once said he considered Ryan the most similar player in the league to Peyton Manning.

The Falcons put themselves in quite a bind with their pursuit of Watson, surrendering the long-time face of the franchise for a single, second-day draft pick.

As soon as they made a pitch to acquire the embattled Houston quarterback, it became clear Ryan would not want to return to a team where he had played his entire NFL career that then openly tried to replace him.

Watson supposedly narrowed his potential choices for a trade to New Orleans and Atlanta — with speculation the Falcons were the favorite because Watson is a Georgia native. But he changed his mind and accepted a $230 million, fully guaranteed deal with the Cleveland Browns, who sent three first-round picks to the Texans in the deal.

Ryan is undoubtedly the greatest quarterback in Falcons history, arriving from Boston College at a pivotal moment to replace Michael Vick. He steadied a franchise rocked by coach Bobby Petrino's departure after 13 games and Vick's imprisonment for running a dogfighting ring.

With Ryan taking over the offense as the starter from Day 1, the Falcons rebounded from a 4-12 mark in 2007 to make the playoffs in his rookie campaign — the first of five consecutive winning seasons and three postseason trips. Until Ryan's arrival, Atlanta had never even managed back-to-back winning seasons since joining the NFL as an expansion team in 1966.

After several down years for the team, Ryan turned in his greatest season in 2016, throwing for a career-best 4,944 yards with 38 touchdowns. Atlanta appeared headed for its first Super Bowl crown when it built a 28-3 lead over the New England Patriots by late in the third quarter, only to see Tom Brady engineer the greatest comeback in title game history for a 34-28 overtime victory.

What the Colts are getting in Ryan is a model of consistency — something they've lacked following the retirements of Luck and Rivers and the departures of Tolzien, Brissett and Wentz. Ryan has two seasons left on his current contract and the Colts are well-positioned to absorb the salary cap hits each season.

"I've long admired Matt for his steady, methodical approach to the game," Colts coach Frank Reich said. "He is one of the most productive quarterbacks in the league and has spearheaded numerous fourth-quarter game-winning drives."

Ryan posted 10 straight seasons with more than 4,000 passing yards until just missing the mark last year with 3,968. He has thrown for at least 20 touchdowns every year of his career, totaling 367 in his career with 170 interceptions. And he has missed only three starts in his 14-year career.

His 59,735 career passing yards are No. 8 in NFL history, and he will likely pass Dan Marino (61,361) for the No. 7 spot on the list next season.

Even though the Falcons made one more playoff appearance with Ryan, in 2017, they never seemed to recover from the stunning collapse on the NFL's biggest stage. Atlanta has since endured four straight losing seasons, including a 7-10 mark last year, and has several big holes to fill.

"As we've said since we've started, we're always evaluating and looking for opportunities to improve our team for the long term," said Arthur Smith, who is heading into his second season as the Falcons coach. "This move is another step in that and we're looking forward to the future."

Mariota joins the little-used Feleipe Franks as the only quarterbacks on Atlanta's roster. Tennessee took Mariota with the No. 2 overall draft pick in 2015, but the 28-year-old played sparingly over the past two seasons as a backup to Derek Carr with the Las Vegas Raiders.

Mariota lost his starting job with the Titans after going 29-32 record in five seasons. He'll apparently get a chance to resurrect his career with the Falcons, who are also likely to pursue a long-term solution in the draft even though this is not considered a strong QB class.

Trade for Watson ends up costing Browns a little more

CLEVELAND (AP)—The price for Deshaun Watson went up for the Cleveland Browns in 24 hours. Call it football inflation.

Cleveland's trade for the legally entangled quarterback became official Sunday, when the Browns finalized the complex deal and released statements from owners Dee and Jimmy Haslam explaining their decision to add him to their roster following the team's own extensive investigation.

A three-time Pro Bowler, Watson has been accused of sexual misconduct by 22 female massage therapists.

The Browns' announcement also included terms of the deal that turned out to be inaccurate.

On Monday, when the trade hit the NFL transactions wire, the Browns had sent first- and fourth-round draft picks in 2022 (Nos. 13 and 107), first- and third-rounders in 2023 and first- and fourth-rounders in 2024 to the Texans.

In exchange, the Browns got Watson and a sixth-rounder in 2024.

The original deal didn't include the fourth-round pick this season and had Cleveland getting back a fifth-rounder in '24.

The team did not provide any reason for the change.

Watson is expected to be in Cleveland later this week for a physical and to be introduced by the Browns at a news conference. Plans are still being finalized by the team, which has received some backlash for their decision to trade for him and give Watson a fully guaranteed $230 million contract.

Watson is scheduled to give depositions the next two days in Houston in the pending civil lawsuits filed by the women who said he sexually abused and harassed them during massage therapy sessions.

The 26-year-old Watson initially told the Browns he wouldn't waive his no-trade clause to join them before changing his mind. He was intrigued by their stacked roster and enticed by a contract that will pay him an average annual salary of $46 million — second only to the $50 million Green Bay is giving Aaron Rodgers.

Watson is also facing possible discipline from the NFL, which is doing an independent investigation into his behavior.

In the event he's suspended without pay, Watson won't have to forfeit as much money because the Browns structured his contract with a base salary of $1.035 million — the league's minimum for a player with his service time — for next season. If he's suspended, Watson will lose $57,500 for each game he's out.

Contrasting wins for MPU, Kanoa

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kanoa Football Club took the solo lead, while MP United Football broke into the win column as the two teams prevailed in the girls U16 division matches in the 2022 spring season of the TakeCare Youth Soccer League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Kanoa got its third win in as many games following a 3-0 shutout victory over Shirley's FC. Kanoa is so far the only undefeated team early in the season and is ahead of Southern United FC (1-0-1 win-draw-loss record), MP United (1-0-1), Shirley's (0-1-1), and Paire Football Club (0-0-3).

Kaleen Leemarvin handed Kanoa its third straight win after making a hat-trick against Shirley's. Her first goal came in the 24 th minute, while the last two were recorded in the 35th and 42nd.

In the other game in the division, MP United bagged its first win of the season after nosing out Paire.

Fiona Regan fired two goals for MP United, which drew one apiece from Irin Chung and Yelin Park. Regan earned her pair in the fifth and 29th minute, while Chung hit the board in the 13th minute, and Park provided the insurance in the 31st.

Justidy Mizutani also scored two goals for Paire with her first coming in the 21st minute and the second 20 minutes later. Teneasha Diaz tallied the other goal for Paire when she found the back of the net in the 26th minute.

MICHAELA PANGANIBAN

MP United Football Club and Paire Football Club players collide as they battle for the ball during their girls U16 game in the 2022 spring season of the TakeCare Youth Soccer League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

GIRLS U13 DIVISION

TanHoldings FC-1 5, MP United 0

Xyriel Jade Pascual powered TanHoldings FC-1 to an easy win over MP United.

Pascual posted four goals to lift TanHoldings FC-1 to an unbeaten 3-0-0 record, while Elissa Calayag contributed one. MP United, after failing to lit up the board, absorbed its third loss in as many matches.

Matansa 6, TanHoldings FC-2 2

Matansa duplicated TanHoldings FC-1's perfect record after downing TanHoldings FC-2.

Alyssa Borlongan crushed TanHoldings FC-2 after scoring all six goals for Matansa, while the losings squad's pair of goals came from Alyza De Belen.

Paire 4, Kanoa FC-2 1

Paire recorded win No. 2 after outclassing Kanoa FC.

Beatrice Gross led Paire's second victory after earning a hat-trick, while Mizutani scored the other goal. Maria Quidato made the lone goal for Kanoa FC-2.

Southern United 2, Kanoa FC-1 0

Southern United also notched its second victory of the season following a shutout win over Kanoa FC-1.

Rosie Saralu logged the two goals for Southern United.

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game would definitely have to be my aggressiveness and eagerness to win. The thing that could use some improvement would be my dribbling and vision in the court, being able to see and read my teammates and the defense."

The 17-year-old daughter of Peter and Loreen Roligat also wants to pursue basketball post high school. "College basketball is an option I'm open to and currently discussing with my NMI coaches."

Lady Dolphins head coach Dan Wollack said Roligat's persistence encapsulated the whole attitude of the team in their win against Tinian in the finals.

"What the coaches like most about not only Angel's play but the team's play is they really stepped up their effort and intensity level when they fell behind early and the game could have easily gotten out of hand. Shots weren't dropping early in the game and Angel and her teammates got away from our original game plan which led to some poor shot selection, bad passes that led to turnovers, and bad drives to the basket in traffic."

Good thing Wollack and his fellow coaches had the wherewithal to regroup and change tactics to slow down the high-powered Tinian squad.

"We called a timeout and decided to start pressing Tinian and our leaders, Angel (Roligat), Kina (Rangamar) and Paulynn (Joyce), encouraged the team to bring up their intensity level on the defensive side of the ball. Once we started getting consistent stops on defense the offense came together and Angel was able to start scoring her usual baskets at the rim. Her teammates did an incredible job of setting her up and putting her in good situations to get her into those scoring positions," he said.

Wollack said while Roligat was an integral part of MHS winning the girls tiara, he couldn't overemphasize that basketball is still a true team sport.

"The coaches were proud of how the whole team performed, especially down the stretch. We had a lot of players really contribute in ways that don't show up on the stats sheet but were just as important in the teams' success."

Nonetheless, the MHS girls head coach still tipped his hat to Roligat for pushing hard after the breaks didn't go her way in the first half.

"Angel played her best basketball at the end of the game to help put the game away. I think what prepares her to succeed under pressure is the fact that she is a four-sport athlete (basketball, track and field, soccer, and volleyball). Being a multi-sport athlete gives you a competitive advantage because you truly learn how to compete and handle different situations and scenarios when things aren't always going well. Also, a lot of the skills you learn in one sport really transfer over well to other sports. Also, Angel spends a lot of time competing with the boys. That competition allows her to play the game with extra confidence, intensity, and swagger. We are so proud of the whole MHS Lady Dolphins basketball team and their devotion throughout the whole season. Every single player in one way or another helped bring back the championship!"

SHUJI

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he plans to travel to Europe, the U.S., Australia, and other parts of Asia and from there will pick where he wants to live next.

On his stint on Saipan as F&B assistant manager of Grandvrio Resort as well as a mainstay in the local running community, he said everything was unforgettable and will forever be cherished.

"I learned a lot from you guys. The time I'd spent with you guys was a treasure for me. I hope these relationships last forever. I made a lot of friends through sports. I also made a lot of connections through my work, eating out, swimming in the ocean, and going to many island parties. I really loved Saipan!"

Kuroda quickly made a name for himself on Saipan's running circles despite not really talking the sport seriously before arriving on Saipan in May 2018. Among his victories on island the past year where the 2021 Gecko 5000 8-kilometer men's cross country race, the 2021 Michelob Ultra 4-Mile Run For Taste, and the 2021 Paupau 5150 Taga Triathlon. He also won the February 2021 Athlete of the Month.

"Thank you for warmly welcoming me. You guys are always the one who gave me motivations, confidence, and courage. I always look up to you guys and I will keep on working hard to make you proud," he said in a message to his running buddies on island.

Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. said Kuroda will surely be missed by the non-profit group and wished him luck in his new adventures.

"It was unfortunate we couldn't have a send-off race like we did with Marshall [Hoskins] but we will miss him most dearly as a runner and a friend. To the current group of runners that's been in Saipan's race scene Shuji has definitely set and kept a very high standard for us to meet. He gives it his all whether it's training or on race day."

Dela Cruz even quoted one of Americas all-time great runners, Steve Prefontaine, in paying tribute to Kuroda, "to give anything less than your best, is to sacrifice the gift."

"He embodied that every day. No one here at Run Saipan will ever forget Shuji Kuroda. Shuji on behalf of our running community we wish you all the best and good luck at your Sahara Desert ultramarathon.

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since it was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic to later in 2023, FIBA Oceania had to organize an alternative qualifier hence the FIBA Micronesian Cup.

With just four teams in the mix, Jenkins said the FIBA Micronesian Cup will adopt a three round-robin format followed by single round finals "to determine our champion team and medalists."

Meanwhile, James clarified that the door is still open for Tinian and Rota basketball players as well as other off-island players still wishing to join the NMIBF national pool for the FIBA Micronesian Cup and next year's Pacific Games,

"For Tinian and Rota, athletes there are considered as off-islanders. If off-island athletes are interested or if we sent an invitation to them, they must meet certain criteria ranging from fitness test to shooting drill test and also have to be active in basketball league within the year. Lastly, they must be present on island (Saipan) no later than May and must be on island for the remainder of the month so that the head coach can see if the athletes fit in to the overall plan/team," he said.

Tinian's Sir Dela Cruz recently confirmed on his social media page that he will try out for the CNMI National Men's Team in May. He recently starred in Tinian's come-from-behind win over Saipan Southern High School in the 2021-2022 IT&E Interscholastic Boys High School Basketball Championships.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	44	27	.620	—
Boston	45	28	.616	—
Toronto	40	32	.556	4½
Brooklyn	38	34	.528	6½
New York	30	41	.423	14

Southeast Division

y-Miami	47	25	.653	—
Charlotte	37	35	.514	10
Atlanta	35	36	.493	11½
Washington	30	41	.423	16½
Orlando	19	53	.264	28

Central Division

Milwaukee	44	27	.620	—
Chicago	42	29	.592	2
Cleveland	41	31	.569	3½
Indiana	25	47	.347	19½
Detroit	19	53	.264	25½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Memphis	49	23	.681	—
Dallas	44	28	.611	5
New Orleans	30	42	.417	19
San Antonio	28	44	.389	21
Houston	18	54	.250	31

Northwest Division

Utah	45	27	.625	—
Denver	42	30	.583	3
Minnesota	42	31	.575	3½
Portland	27	44	.380	17½
Oklahoma City	20	52	.278	25

Pacific Division

x-Phoenix	58	14	.806	—
Golden State	47	24	.662	10½
L.A. Clippers	36	37	.493	22½
L.A. Lakers	31	41	.431	27
Sacramento	25	48	.342	33½

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Antetokounmpo returns, Bucks roll to win over Bulls

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Persistence pays off for Roligat

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

For Angel Roligat, compartmentalizing things worked wonders during the championship game of the 2021-2022 IT&E Interscholastic Girls High School Basketball Championships.

By her own admission, the 5'5" center from Oleai played so-so in the first half for Marianas High School, but turned it all up in the second half against Tinian to lead the Lady Dolphins to a 27-21 win.

"I definitely missed a lot of easy shots in the first half but thanks to coach Preston [Basa] and coach Gabi [Race] for calming me down and constantly giving me advice on the sidelines it pushed me to do better in second half to defend our title."

Roligat helping MHS complete a three-peat was probably the farthest thing from her mind when she first played the sport.

"I first picked up a basketball in elementary but never had the passion until a friend (current MHS forward Kina Rangamar) recruited me to Ol'Aces in junior high. I'd say my first influence in basketball was my brother (Oldie). My favorite team is and always will be the Golden State Warriors and my favorite player is Steph Curry. The first NBA game I ever watched was the Golden State Warriors and just watching how much chemistry and organized a team can be was very inspiring especially at a young age," she said.

Not by all means a complete player, Roligat said she still needs a lot to learn to become the best version of herself on the basketball court.

"The strongest part of my

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Angel Roligat gets ready to take free throws in the 2021-2022 IT&E Interscholastic Girls High School Basketball Championships at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Marianas High School Lady Dolphins pose with their new uniforms that came late after the 2021-2022 IT&E Interscholastic Girls High School Basketball Championships.

Shuji off to complete bucket list

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Run Saipan mainstay Shuji Kuroda has bid Saipan adieu but will continue his running passion by taking part in this weekend's Marathon Des Sables, which is a six-day, 251-kilometer ultramarathon in Morocco's Sahara Desert.

"Saipan was really comfortable for me. I'm following my bucket list. To 'live on Saipan' was part of that bucket list and I achieved that. I was thinking what I would like to do next as I still have a lot of items in my bucket list," said the 32-year-old Tokyo, Japan native in a social media message to *Saipan Tribune*.

Part of Kuroda's plan is to live in other countries that has led him to take part in the grueling Marathon Des Sables.

"I'd like to explore new places and experience new things. However, I don't have any connections in other places like on Japan and Saipan. So, I decided to travel around the world to make connections with other people."

For the ultramarathon this weekend, he hopes his training on Saipan's tropical weather will serve him well.

"In Marathon Des Sables, we need to run a total of 250 kilometers in the desert in high temperature while carrying a backpack which has everything we need to live for seven days. I've been doing training by carrying a 25-lb backpack and running very long distances," he said

Kuroda said after Morocco,

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MARK RABAGO

Shuji Kuroda, fourth from right, poses with his Run Saipan family after topping the 2021 Gecko 5000 8-kilometer men's cross country race last year.

4 island-nations confirmed for FIBA Micronesian Cup

By MARK RABAGO
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The CNMI Men's and Women's National Basketball Teams will duke it out against three other national squads when the Inaugural FIBA Micronesian Cup tips off in early June in neighboring Guam.

Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation president James Lee recently received a letter from FIBA Oceania executive director Amanda Jenkins that informed him that a total of four national teams have confirmed for the June 8-11 tournament.

Jenkins said aside from the CNMI and host Guam, the two other island-nations that will send teams to the FIBA Micronesian Cup are Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia.

"Due to travel restrictions both Marshall Islands and

Lee

Kiribati have issued their apologies at not being able to attend this year," she said in the letter to Lee. Nauru was the other team invited to take part in the FIBA Micronesian Cup.

The FIBA Micronesian Cup will serve as a qualifier for the 2023 Pacific Games in the Solomon Islands. Originally, the 2022 Micronesian Games set for the Marshall Islands was to serve as the qualifier, but

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